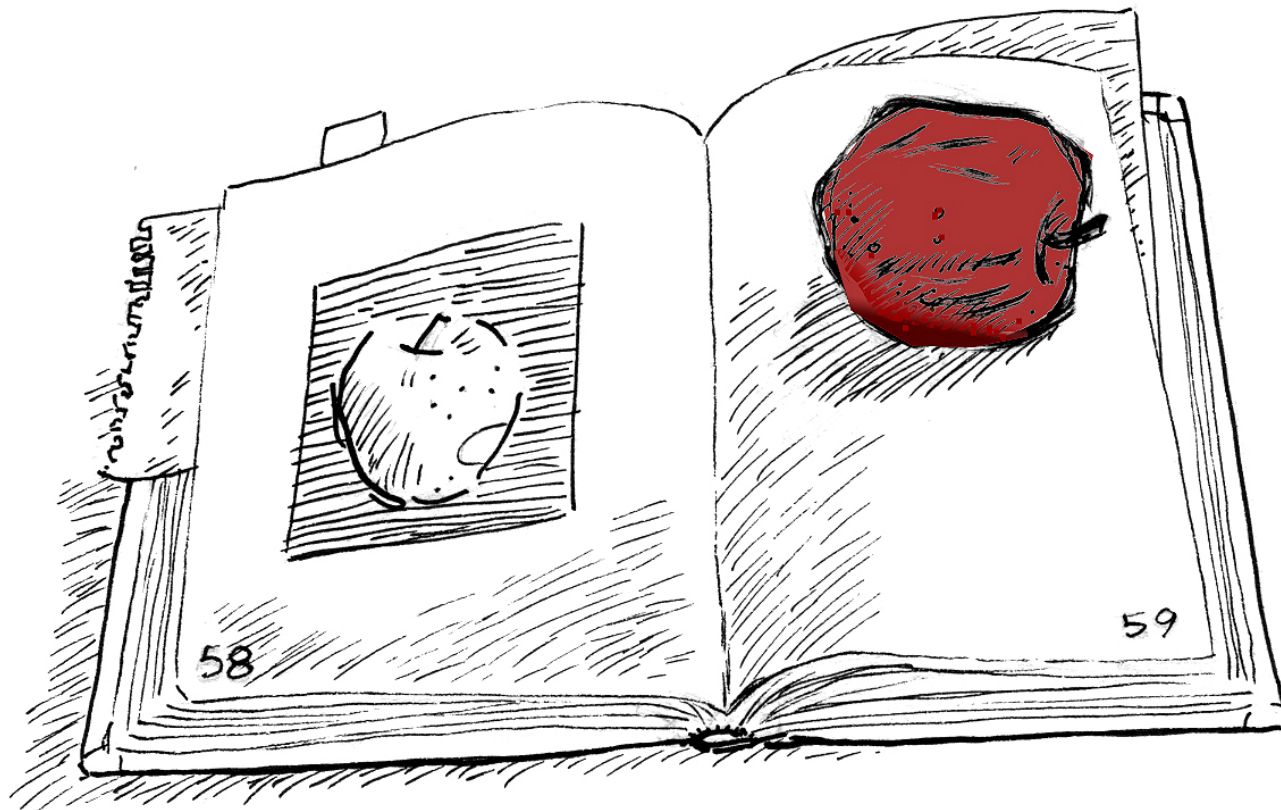


What is a Thesis?



What is a Thesis?

An English 1301 basic thesis statement is:

- is the unifying force in the paper
- it is the point you are arguing; the thesis defines your position on a subject;
your paper will provide convincing evidence to support the thesis
- a declarative statement, composed of one or two sentences

The thesis states a fact about your topic and your point of view on the topic:

topic + **opinion** + **fact** = thesis

The Texas policy of capital punishment is a working example
of a system of state-controlled policies **which acts as a deterrent to crime.**

What is a Thesis?

A working example:

The Texas policy of capital punishment is a working example of a system of state-controlled policies which acts as a deterrent to crime.

- In this fashion the instructor/audience sees:
 - > the student/author has an opinion on the debate,
but is open for further discussion from both sides of the issue
 - > the narrow topic addresses specific Texas legislation regarding executions
 - > a cause/effect pattern will be utilized
- The paper will only use defense which examines the specific issues and statistics relating to Texas state policies on capital punishment.

Declaring a Thesis

Typically the thesis is located as the last sentence of an introductory paragraph.

On occasion, with cautious preparation, a thesis may be positioned in a non-obvious location within the opening sections of the full paper.

- past readings in class have shown such various concepts:
 - see for example Deborah Tannen's "Sex, Lies, and Conversation."*
- communication with the instructor is important when experimenting with academic paper standards