# Evaluating Thesis Statements

## A **thesis statement** is **your position** on the essay question or topic you are writing about. In other words, your thesis statement is your central **claim** or overall **viewpoint** on the debatable issue.

### A good thesis statement is specific, debatable, defensible, and interesting. It is not just your opinion—it is a defendable claim that you can support with textual evidence and logical reasoning. A clear and direct thesis statement will give your whole essay focus. A strong thesis statement sets up expectations and helps readers predict what you will talk about in your body paragraphs. Without a good thesis statement, your essay will lack purpose and direction. When you write your essay, each body paragraph should connect back to the thesis statement to make your whole essay cohesive.

#### Let’s evaluate the following thesis statements, which were responding to this essay question: “Based on the assigned reading, what defines good parenting?”

##### Put a PLUS sign next to the strongest thesis statements and a MINUS sign next to the thesis statements that need more attention.

1) The articles demonstrate that good parenting means setting limits for your children and showing them the difference between right and wrong.

2) The most important thing that a parent can do is listen.

3) To be a good parent means different things to people depending on your situation according to some articles I had to read for class.

4) What does it mean to be a good parent?

5) To be a good parent depends on several factors.

6) The articles show that although it might seem controversial, a good parent needs to be tough because life is tough.

7) Based on the author’s evidence, it is clear that good parents demonstrate the following characteristics: empathy, consistency, and fairness. These characteristics are important because children need good role models to teach them values.

8) In this essay I will discuss what it means to be a good parent.