HINTS FOR WRITING A GOOD THESIS STATEMENT

- Choose a topic that interests you
- Be specific; don't use a weak generality
- Choose something you can analyze or argue
- Avoid a topic that will tempt you to summarize
- Keep the topic appropriate to the length of the paper
- Can your thesis be supported in your paper?
- Does your research paper support your thesis without wandering?
- Does your thesis pass the "So What?" test?

Which of the following thesis statements are strong? Why?

- People hold different opinions as to whether it is wise to impose sanctions on China because of their human rights violations.

- Imposing sanctions on China would be a mistake because it would hurt the American economy, because sanctions are notoriously unsuccessful as a way to force change, and because the United States should not interfere in the internal policies of other countries.

- The No Child Left Behind Act has greatly impacted public education.

- The No Child Left Behind Act has been ineffective in raising student test scores, improving teacher effectiveness and preparing high school students for college-level writing and critical thinking.

- This literature review focuses on issues related to the loss of a spouse in late life.

- This literature review focuses on issues related to the loss of a spouse in late life and is organized into the following major sections: (a) bereavement, (b) meaning, and (c) growth. The first major section examines bereavement and issues related to the loss of a spouse in late life. The second major section focuses on meaning and provides an overview of its relationship to bereavement. The third major section explores adaptation in response to loss.