Thesis Statement Checklist:

How do I know if my thesis is strong? When reviewing your first draft and its working thesis, ask yourself the following questions:

- **Do I answer the question?** Re-reading the question prompt after constructing a working thesis can help you fix an argument that misses the focus of the question.

- **Have I taken a position that others might challenge or oppose?** If your thesis simply states facts that no one would, or even could, disagree with, it's possible that you are simply providing a summary rather than making an argument.

- **Is my thesis statement specific enough?** Thesis statements that are too vague often do not have a strong argument. If your thesis contains words like "good" or "successful," see if you could be more specific: why is something "good"; what specifically makes something "successful"?

- **Does my thesis pass the "So what?" test?** If a reader's first response to your argument is, "So what?" then you need to clarify your thesis by forging a relationship with it or by connecting it to a larger issue.

- **Does my essay support my thesis specifically and without wandering?** If your thesis and the body of your essay do not seem to go together, one of them has to change. Change your working thesis to reflect what you have figured out in the course of writing. Always reassess and revise your writing as necessary.

- **Does my thesis pass the "how and why?" test?** If a reader's first response to your argument is "how?" or "why?", your thesis may be too open-ended and lack guidance for the reader. See what you can add to the thesis statement to give the reader a better understanding of your position.

- **Is my thesis statement the last sentence of my introduction?** Remember that your introduction paragraph needs to establish the context and logic in which your thesis functions and makes sense!