The Tyler P. Fick Writing Center

**Creating a Strong Thesis**

A strong thesis (as opposed to a weak one) generally follows the following criteria:

*1. A strong thesis statement takes a stand.*

*2. A strong thesis statement justifies discussion.*

*3. A strong thesis statement expresses one main idea.*

*4. A strong thesis statement is specific.*

Take the time to evaluate the theses below, and rewrite them in a way that better fits the criteria. The first one has been provided as an example.

1. Jane Austen’s characters are not like women of her time.

*Jane Austen’s characters are unlike most women in Regency times because her characters control the psychological and emotional outcomes of the stories.*

2. Fast food is unhealthy.

3. The Harry Potter novels are not the average fantasy novel.

4. More young women should play sports.

5. Computers can lead to family arguments.

6. The internet has done more harm than good in society.

7. Vaccines are necessary to protect everyone.

8. A college degree equates success.

9. Video games are good for children.

10. The legal age of drinking is too young.

**Create a thesis (take a stand) from reading the following prompts:**

1. Orson Scott Card said, “…children are a perpetual, self-renewing underclass, helpless to escape from the decisions of adults until they become adults themselves.”

Your thesis:

2. Does art reflect OR create our culture?

Your thesis:

3. Is the government ever justified in involving itself in family planning decisions?

Your thesis: