Thesis Statement Checklist

Is your thesis statement...

☐ Worth presenting, and is the answer to a question that could be debated? (i.e., it is not an obvious truism or vague generalization.)

☐ Expressed concisely in one or two complete sentences?

☐ Supportable by details, facts, and examples within the assigned limitations of time and space?

Does your thesis statement...

☐ Make an argument or present a point of view?

☐ Go beyond announcing your topic?
   Do more than state a fact, and instead tell a how or why?

☐ Act as a roadmap that unifies all the ideas in your essay?

☐ Lay out a structure that you can follow in the body of your essay?

☐ Include only ideas that you fully explain in your essay?

☐ Fit the evidence you use in your paper?

*To be attached to back of Formulating a Thesis Statement Handout

Adapted from Ann Raimes, Keys for Writers, 5th ed. (Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, ch. 1e (18-21) and ch. 4d (54-56).