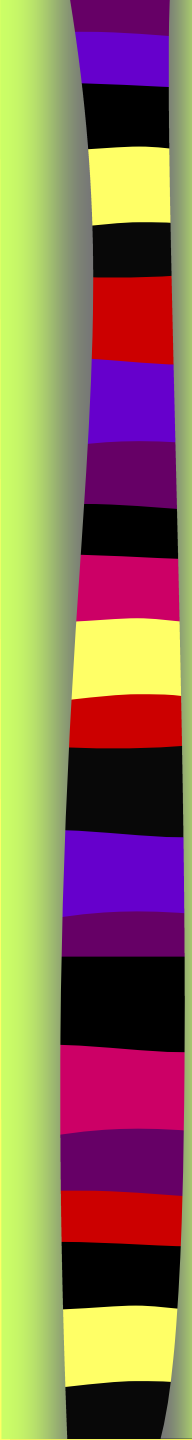


The Thesis Statement



*The driving force behind
your argument.*



A **declarative** statement that explains what you will prove in the body of your paper.

It does not simply announce your topic –
it expresses your definitive slant.

What you will prove about your topic.



There is a decline in the ethical and moral behaviors of American high school students.

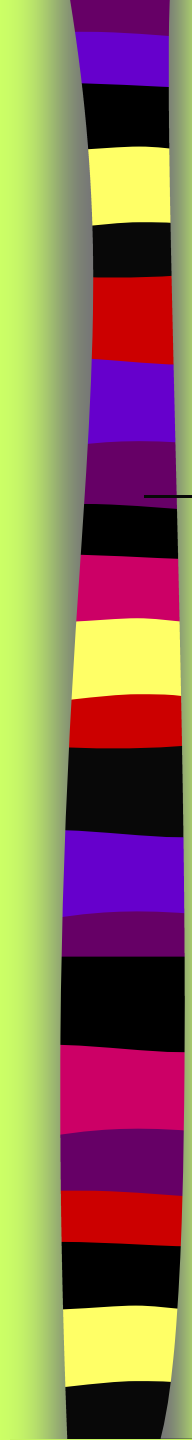


Immoral and unethical behavior in high school students can be reduced with the inception of high school leadership programs.

Do not use trite/overused language

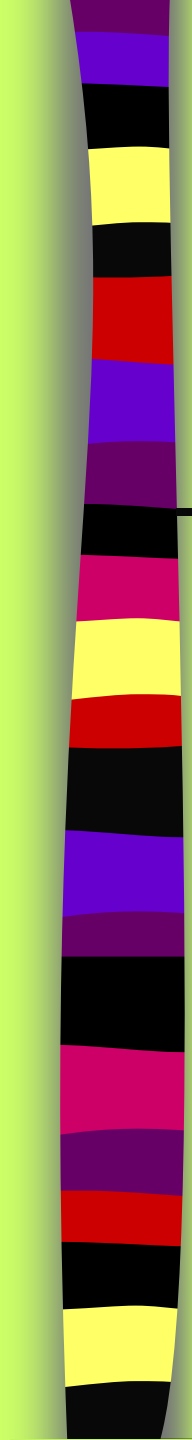
- My research will prove...
- In this paper, you will see...
- The purpose of this paper is to prove...
- The thesis of my essay is...

**JUST DECLARE YOUR
POINT!**



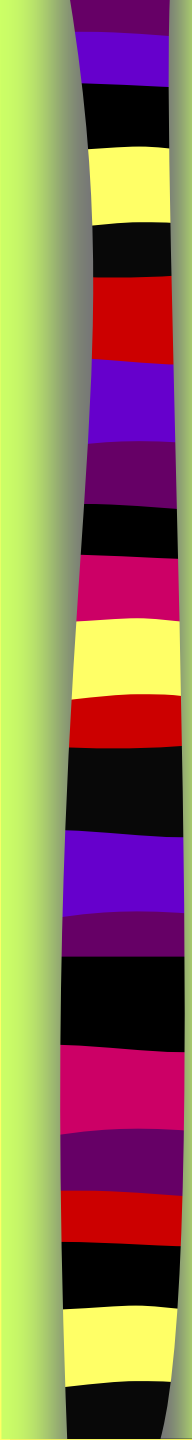
Make sure **every single morsel** of your support falls under the umbrella of your thesis.

- Be concise and succinct with your language.
- What key words can you include? Use these throughout your support.
- Make sure your statement fully reflects each of your warrants.



Don't make such a **large claim** that you leave yourself open to criticism. Be careful with absolutes.

- **Adult illiteracy poses the greatest threat to American society today.**
- **Adult illiteracy poses one of the greatest threats to American society today.**



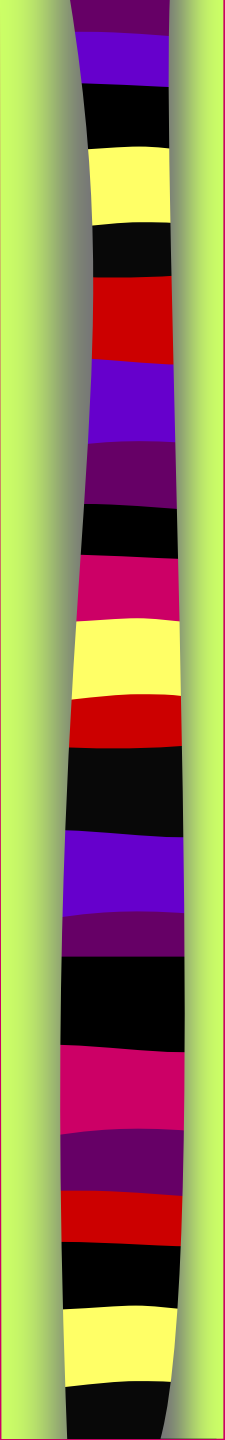
It is NOT a question:

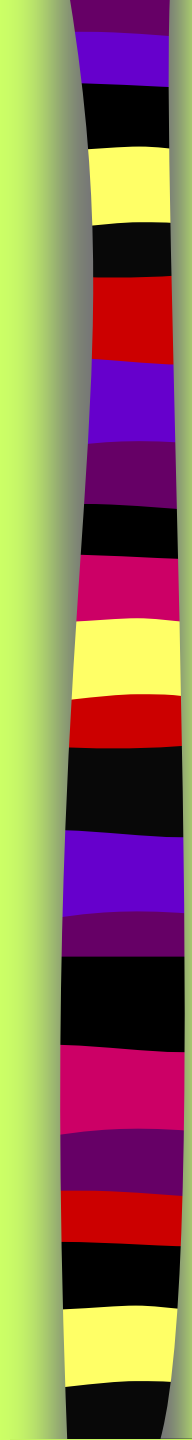
Can we save the Amazon rainforest?

The Amazon rain forest can be saved by limiting tourist presence, boycotting goods made by companies that deplete the forest's resources, and generally educating people about the need to preserve the rain forest in order to preserve the earth's ecological systems.

Extend your thesis by including a map

- ✓ A brief statement introducing the major points to be discussed in the paper. (*Don't forget to use parallel structure!*)
- ✓ *Why* should you consider using one?
- ✓ *Must* an essay map be included in my paper?
- ✓ Make sure to layout the body in the same order as the map!

- 
- Drug addiction has caused a significant increase in violent crimes in America.
 - In America, drug addiction has caused a significant increase in violent crimes in the home, at school, and on the street.

- 
- James Joyce's *Ulysses* helped create a new way for writers to deal with the unconscious.
 - James Joyce's *Ulysses* helped create a new way for writers to deal with the unconscious by utilizing the findings of Freudian psychology and introducing the techniques of literary stream-of-consciousness.



Create a *smooth transition* from the introduction to the thesis statement.

Consequently

However

As a result

On the contrary

Furthermore

Specifically

Therefore

Thus



*For now, consider it a
Working Thesis.*