TURNER	RESEARCH	NAME:
	ANALYTICAL THINKING & WRITING	
	How to Identify and Write a Thesis	DUE:

What is a Thesis Statement?
    A thesis is a controlling idea about a topic that the writer is attempting to prove

Why do I have to write a thesis statement?
    to test your ideas by narrowing them into a sentence or two
    to better organize and develop your argument
    to provide your reader with a "guide" to your argument

How do I write a good thesis statement?
    Look at the characteristics for thesis statements presented below, and complete the exercise:

1. A strong thesis statement takes a stand on the prompt.
There are some negative and positive aspects to industrialization.
Because industrialization damaged the environment and exploited workers, its effects were more negative than positive.
Which thesis is stronger? _____ Explain_____
_____

2. A strong thesis statement does not simply state a fact, but sets the stage for analysis of a topic.
a. The Civil War took place between 1861-1865.
b. The Civil War, which took place between 1861-1865, was the most devastating war in United States history.
Which thesis is stronger? _____ Explain_____
_____

3. A strong thesis statement is unified, and expresses one main idea.
a. Although some people believe that George Washington was the best president, Abraham Lincoln was much better.
b. Abraham Lincoln was the best president because he fought to keep the country together and fought for the elimination of slavery.
Which thesis is stronger? _____ Explain_____
_____

4. A strong thesis statement is specific.
a. The Crusades were fought because of religion.
b. The Crusades were fought due to religious fanaticism and a struggle for power in the Holy Land.
Which thesis is stronger? _____ Explain_____
_____

NOW: Practice writing a valid thesis based on the following prompt:

Consider what archaeologists might conclude about Ashland City, TN a thousand years from today. Obviously, the picture they might paint about Ashland City will not be completely accurate. However, some of the future conclusions may be valid.

Discuss the accuracy of the conclusions of future generations of archaeologists based upon the artifacts they may find a thousand years from now.

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