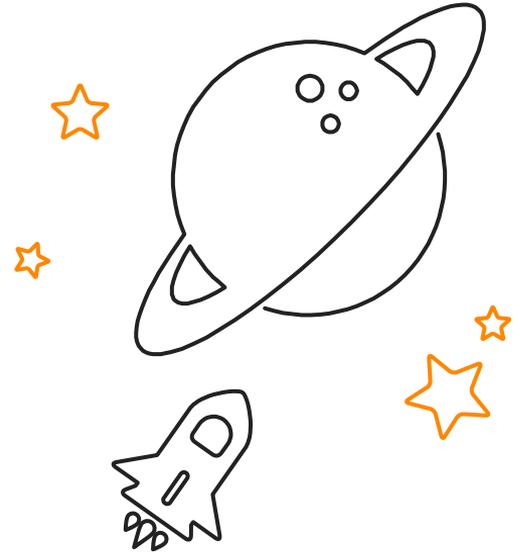


ACADEMIC WRITING IN ENGLISH: THESIS STATEMENTS

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THESIS

A statement or promise to your reader that informs them about the topic you will be covering in your writing.



Thesis Statements

- ▶ **Tips for constructing a thesis:**
 - ▶ For now, limit your thesis statements to a single focused sentence for practice.
 - ▶ Your thesis might change as you write; this is not a problem.
 - ▶ A “working thesis,” or a tentative thesis will keep your writing from becoming disorganized.

Two Characteristics of a Thesis Statement

Topic

Lets the reader know what your writing will discuss.

Comment

Shares an important point or makes an argument

In the field of environmental studies, scientists should combine individual observations with other information present on the biosphere they are studying.

Qualities of an Effective Thesis Statement

- ▶ **Successful thesis statements should have three qualities:**
 - ▶ They should be potentially interesting to the intended audience.
 - ▶ They should be specific.
 - ▶ They should be manageable.

In the field of environmental studies, scientists should combine individual observations with other information present on the biosphere they are studying.

Sample Thesis

- ▶ Increased littering on our campus demands that we provide additional trash and recycling receptacles.
 - ▷ Focuses on a particular audience.
 - ▷ Specific in its argument or recommendation.
 - ▷ Manageable to research for a student writer.

Theses in English Writing

- ▶ In the United States, readers expect the author to provide a thesis and main ideas very early in a piece of writing.
- ▶ Do not hide or delay your thesis unless your topic is highly controversial or difficult for a reader to accept.

Advice for successful thesis statements

- ▶ **Make your perspective or opinion clear**
 - ▷ **Unclear**
 - ▷ In this paper, I will discuss the relationship between exhaust emissions and lead content within the body.
 - ▷ **Clear**
 - ▷ Unregulated car emissions are not just harmful to the environment but are also linked to increased levels of lead in our blood.

Advice for successful thesis statements

- ▶ **Do not oversimplify complex issues:**
 - ▷ **Oversimplified**
 - ▷ We must save the whales
 - ▷ **More complex**
 - ▷ Because our planet's health may depend upon biological diversity, we should limit whale hunting in order to stabilize whale populations globally.

Advice for successful thesis statements

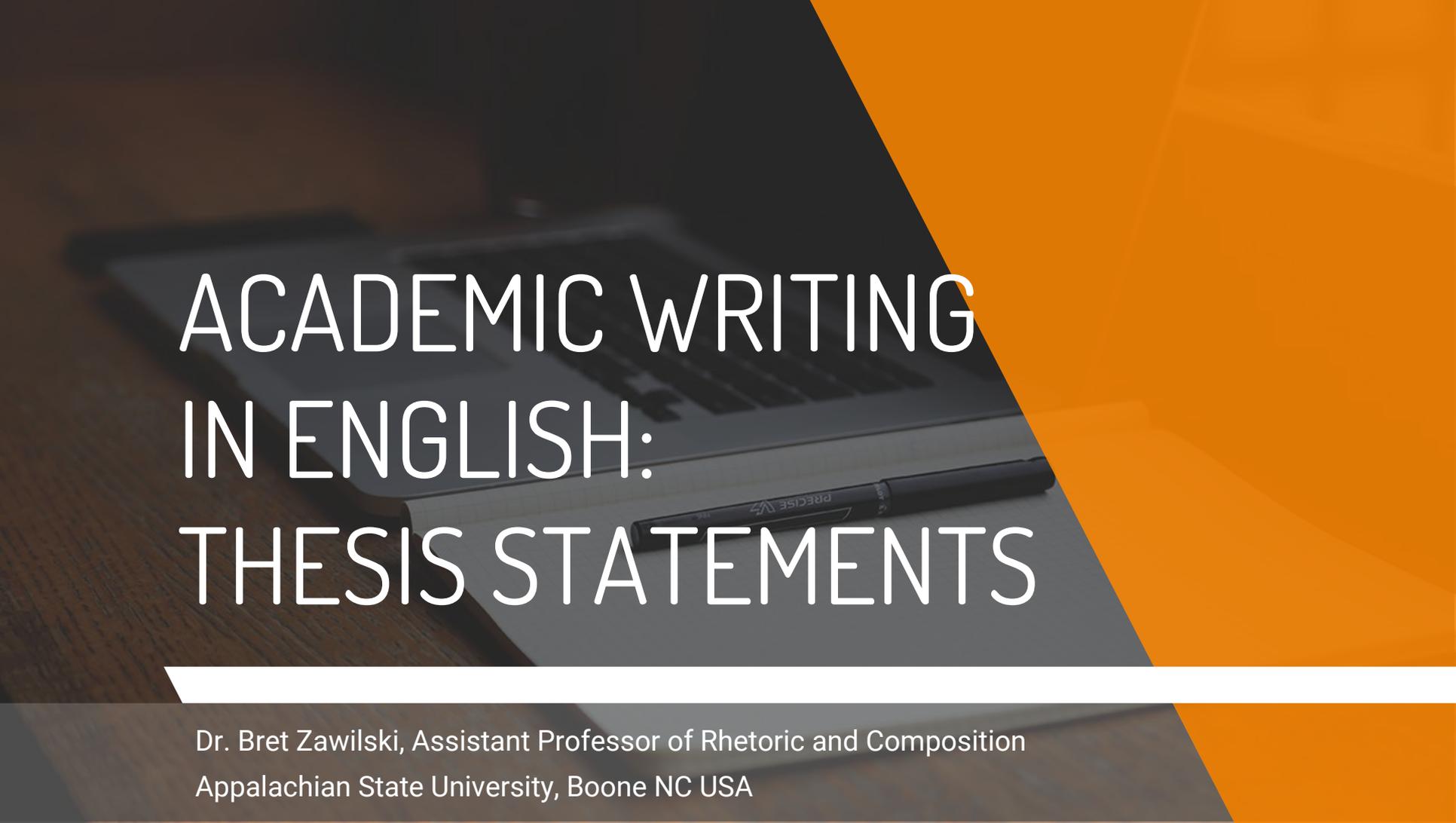
- ▶ Provide reasoning if making a subjective or complex claim:
 - ▷ Lacking a reasoning
 - ▷ Socialism is the best form of government for Kenya.
 - ▷ Providing a reasoning
 - ▷ If the government takes over industry in Kenya, the industry will become more efficient.

A Final Reminder...

- ▶ It is perfectly acceptable for your thesis to change as you write a paper.

Homework

- ▶ **After watching this video:**
 - ▶ Revisit the mindmap you composed for Video 3
 - ▶ Practice creating several thesis statements from the ideas you gathered; they should be:
 - ▶ Potentially interesting to an audience
 - ▶ Specific
 - ▶ Manageable



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