Thesis Statement Checklist

Before Writing My Thesis Statement

☐ I am aware of my audience and purpose.
   Audience: ______________________________________________________
   Purpose: ______________________________________________________

☐ I have formed a question based on my topic and I have a logical answer I can support.
   Topic: _________________________________________________________
   Question: ____________________________________________________
   My Answer/Opinion: ____________________________________________

☐ I have researched both sides of the topic.
   The opposition’s view: __________________________________________

☐ There is enough evidence to prove my point with multiple supporting ideas.

☐ I have approached the topic fairly and without bias. I haven’t let my personal beliefs interfere with the facts.

Writing My Thesis Statement

☐ I have written a trial thesis statement based on the information from “Before Writing My Thesis Statement.”
   My trial thesis statement: (1) _________________________________________________
   (2) _________________________________________________
   (3) _________________________________________________

☐ My thesis statement is limited to one main idea.
   My one main idea: _______________________________________________________

☐ My thesis statement is short, simple, and clear.

☐ My thesis statement is a single declarative sentence with no qualifiers (might, maybe, perhaps, probably, kind of, really, most, I think, etc.)

☐ Do I answer the question from my topic clearly?

☐ My thesis is specific and can’t be misinterpreted.

☐ Does my thesis pass the “So what?” test? If the reader’s first response is, “So . . . what’s your point?” or “So what—who cares?” then I need to clarify, to forge a relationship, or to connect to a larger issue.

☐ My thesis statement is debatable or informative.

☐ My thesis statement indicates the direction of my argument or stance on the topic.

☐ I have written my revised thesis statement based on the information from “Writing My Thesis Statement.”
   My thesis statement: _________________________________________________

Final Evaluation of My Thesis Statement—Done After the Rough Draft

☐ My position on the topic has been clearly defended.

☐ My essay supports my thesis specifically and without wandering—every supporting paragraph clearly ties back to my thesis.

☐ After the rough draft, I have made necessary changes to my thesis.
   My final thesis statement: _______________________________________________