**How do you know if you've got a solid thesis?**

**Try these five tests:**

* Does the thesis  inspire a reasonable reader to ask, "How?" or Why?"
* Does it pass the "Duh!" or "So what?" or "Gee, no kidding!" or "Who cares?" test?
* Does the thesis avoid general statements and/or sweeping words such as "all" or "none" or "every"?
* Does the thesis lead the reader toward the topic sentences (the subtopics needed to prove the thesis)?
* Can the thesis be adequately developed in the required length of the paper or project?

If you cannot answer "YES" to these questions, what changes must you make in order for your thesis to pass these tests?