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# NARROW DOWN TO A **THESIS STATEMENT**

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## **PURPOSE**

A thesis statement announces the topic and main point of the paper.

## **PROOF**

A thesis statement is an opinion that you intend to back up.

## **CONTROVERSIAL**

A thesis statement is arguable/debatable.

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## **IN ONE SENTENCE ...**

1. Identify the subject or issue.
2. Narrow the topic to a specific focus (to be proven).
3. Give an opinion. Take a stand. Convey a feeling.

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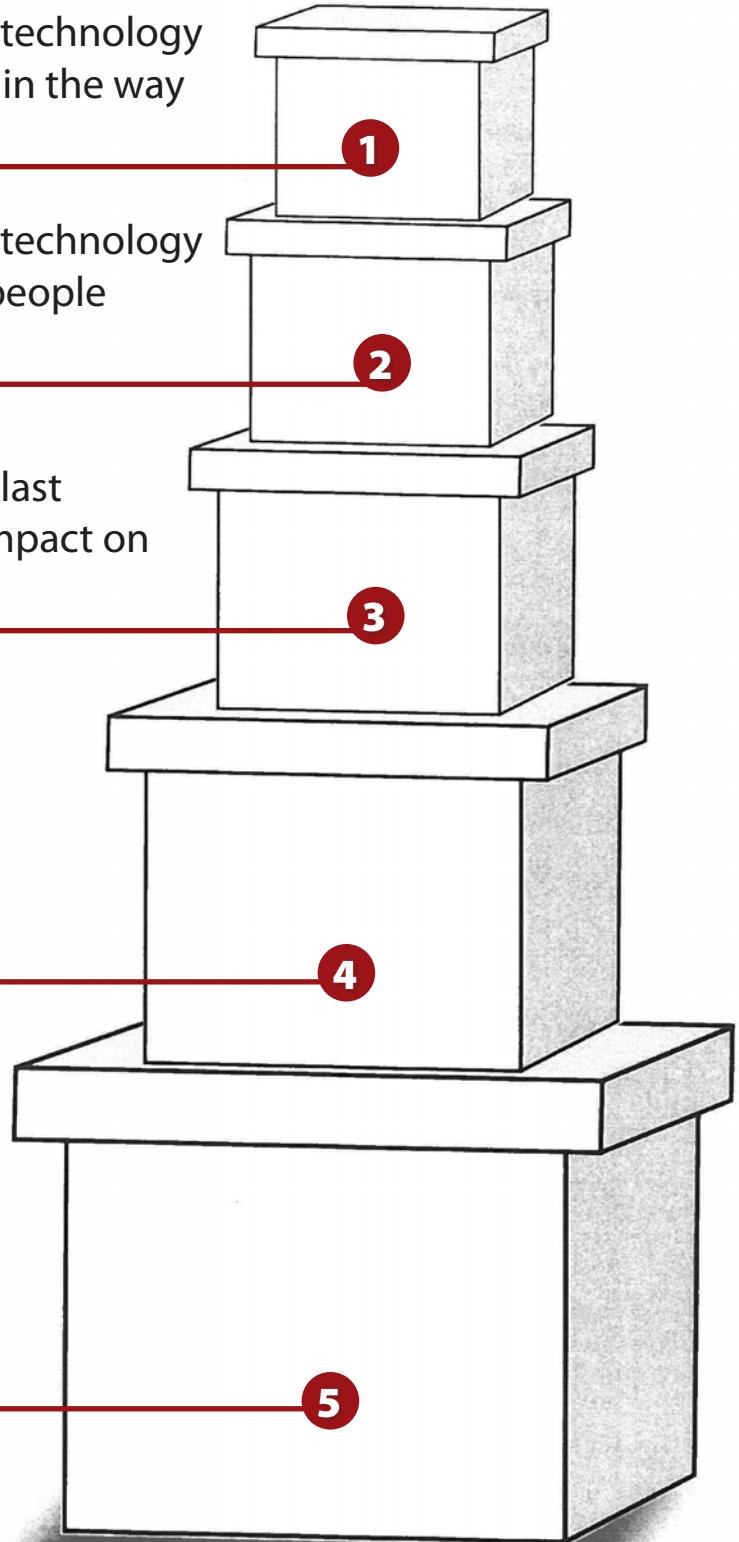
Over the last 20 years, changes in technology have made a profound difference in the way American students communicate.

Over the last 20 years, changes in technology have made a big impact on how people communicate.

The technological changes of the last hundred years have made a big impact on how people communicate.

The technological changes of the last hundred years have been amazing.

There have been a lot of technology changes.



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**5 Broad thesis statement:**  
*Why are there so many high school dropouts in the U.S.?*

**1 Narrow thesis statement:**  
*Grades in high school should be eliminated because they cause anxiety and put unnecessary pressure on students resulting in an increased dropout rate.*

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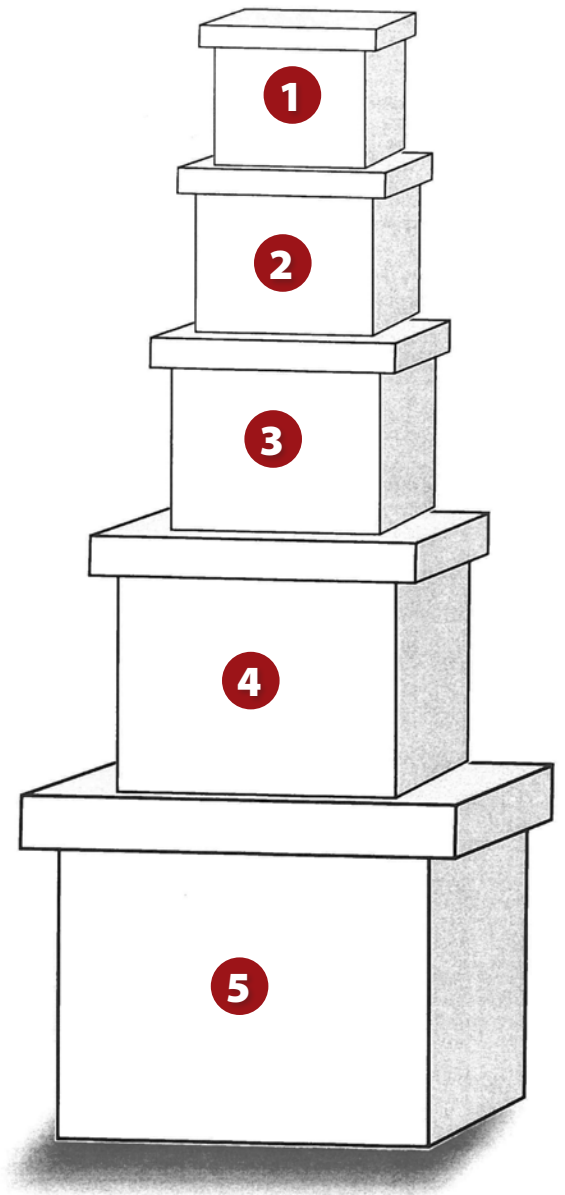
**5 Broad thesis statement:**  
*This paper will explain why the government has the right to limit free speech.*

**1 Narrow thesis statement:**  
*The government has the right to limit free speech in cases of overtly racist or sexist language because failure not to suggests that our society condones such ignorant and hateful views.*

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**5 Broad thesis statement:**  
*People need to stay healthy for several important reasons.*

**1 Narrow thesis statement:**  
*Students must get sufficient sleep at night in order to success in school.*



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## Now it's your turn:

Revise the *weak* thesis statements provided. Be sure your one-sentence revision:

- 1) Identifies the subject or issue.
- 2) Provides a narrow focus that can be proven.
- 3) Gives an opinion. Takes a stand. Conveys a feeling.

## **WEAK EXAMPLES**

1. What are the most popular laws that affect teens?

2. I think smoking is bad.

3. Martin Luther King, Jr. is a role model for everyone to follow.

4. What are the causes of violence?

5. I believe that exercise is good.

6. The invention of the internet has impacted our world.

7. Eating fast food can lead to obesity.

8. Traveling across the country is fun.

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