**Ways to Improve the Thesis**

[1] Remember: use your (b) to make your MIS.

GOOD:

(b) How does living in a university dormitory affect students?

MIS: Students are affected by living in university dormitories in

a variety of ways.

BAD:

(b) How does living in a university dormitory affect students?

MIS: Living in university dormitories affects students.

BAD:

(b) How does living in a university dormitory affect students?

MIS: I think living in a university dormitory gives a good

experience.

You are trying to convince your reader that you have done research, that the research has shown you something, that you have learned something, and that the reader can learn something, too. That is why you have done research. You can put your opinion at the end to show that the research has informed your thinking and that you have actually processed the information in your head. You may have an opinion about the topic you write about, but SUPPORT your opinion by showing that research supports it!

[2] The Outline is very important!!! Because this is the prewriting, you must do the Outline first before you write your thesis. You use the Outline to check that:

* there are no holes or problems with the Outline. If you have only one thing to say for specific support for a Topic Sentence, it means you probably shouldn’t use that Topic Sentence (or need more research). You have too little to say about it!
* your MIS and Topic Sentences need to be sentences that are COPIED into your Report. This is actually the easiest way to write academic papers: Plan and Paste!
* your Topic Sentences are actually related to your MIS

GOOD:

MIS: Students are affected by living in university dormitories in

a variety of ways.

TS#1: First, students are affected mentally by dormitory life.

BAD:

MIS: Students are affected by living in university dormitories in

a variety of ways.

TS#1: Students don’t live with their parents.

[3] Your MIS absolutely must:

* + - be a sentence, not a question.
    - be the last sentence of the Introductory Paragraph (or Introductory section).
    - indicate that you have done some research.
    - be in both your Outline and in your thesis.

[4] Never use “I” in academic papers (it is acceptable only in special circumstances).

Never ask questions in academic papers, ESPECIALLY as an MIS. Why? If you ask questions of your reader, it looks as though you don’t know what you are writing about, as though you don’t have the answers, as though you have not done the research. Questions may be acceptable for some styles of writing, but not for the thesis.

[5] A paragraph can never be just one sentence.

[6] The title should really reflect the contents and direction of the thesis.

[7] If you do a presentation about your thesis, the thesis presentation is only ABOUT the thesis…not the thesis itself.