THESIS STATEMENTS IN LITERARY ANALYSIS PAPERS

*The thesis statement is one of the (if not the) most important parts of your paper—think of it as the foundation of a house—if your foundation is weak and poorly constructed, what do you think happens to the house?

*The thesis statement is the announcement of your analytical argument that you intend to make **and** prove in the duration of your paper. It is a road map for the paper—it tells the reader what to expect from the rest of the paper.

*It should be placed somewhere in the Introduction of your paper—Many like to put it as the last sentence(s) of their Intro which is fine.

*Successful thesis statements provoke thought and should read beautifully.

*Your thesis should include three components: WHAT, HOW, and WHY
WHAT—claim about the text
HOW—the literary devices, concepts, general themes etc. that you choose to prove your claim
WHY—the significance of your idea in terms of understanding the text as a whole (answers the dreaded "so what?" question)

*A thesis statement is usually, but can be more than, one sentence long.