GUIDE TO A GREAT THESIS in any mode:

--**Remember, a thesis is a blueprint to your essay**
--Must always be present in introduction paragraph.
--Must always be obvious which sentence it is.
--Must include the following elements, depending on your rhetorical mode; should be only one sentence (try using the semicolon)

ARGUMENTATION:
--*Your opinion on the topic* + *summary of main reasons to support opinion (usually 3 which become body paragraphs)*
--Example: "It is best for students to go to college because it can be a great experience, it can teach you a great deal, and it can provide you with the necessary background for whatever career you choose in the future."

DEFINITION:
--*The term/idea you will define* + *the ways (how) you will define it (usually 3, which become your body paragraphs)*
--Example: "Success after high school can best be described: by taking a look at people we consider successful, by understanding the general opinion of someone who is *un*successful, and by exploring the role that self-satisfaction plays in our evaluation of success."

PROCESS ANALYSIS:
--*The process you will be analyzing* + *how you will be analyzing it (how many / what kind of steps or stages – which become your body paragraphs)*
--Example: "Getting a job as a mechanical engineer is actually quite complex, for it requires about six stages of education, certification, and experience to get there."

CLASSIFICATION AND DIVISION:
--*what you are classifying + your purpose for classifying it + how you will be classifying it (become body paragraphs)*
--Example: "The easiest way to comprehend how a car works is by analyzing its systems individually: combustion, electrical, braking, and steering."

NARRATION / DESCRIPTION:
--*The general idea of what your story is about* + *the general lesson you learned or (want us to take away)*
--Example: "Failing a class was not the best decision I ever made, but from it I learned the extreme importance of applying myself."

COMPARE / CONTRAST:
--*The two items/ideas/people you will be comparing/contrasting* + *the elements/categories in which you will be comparing/contrasting them (usually 3, which then serve as your body paragraphs)*
--Example: "The most important elements to consider when choosing between college or a career directly after high school are: the job opportunities you are seeking, the potential for financial aid, and your own interest in the experiences each option has to offer."

CAUSE / EFFECT
--*What you will be examining the causes/effects of* + *the repercussions of these causes/effects that you will argue.*
--Use signal words: "as a result," "because," "consequently," "due to," "if...then," "leads to," "therefore" and "thus."
--In addition, use degrees of certainty phrases such as "certainly," "may," "necessarily," "perhaps," "possibly," "probably," "undoubtedly" and "unquestionably."
--Example: "Due to the increased use of texting and instant messaging in society, there has unquestionably been a decrease in the quality of writing."