Thesis Statement Checklist
Adapted from Appendix B in Writing for Sociology (2nd Edition)¹

If you can answer “yes” to each of these questions, then you have an excellent thesis!

___ Does my thesis sentence attempt to answer (or at least to explore) a challenging intellectual question?

___ Is the point I'm making one that would generate discussion and argument, or is it one that would leave people asking, “So what?”

___ Is my thesis too vague? Too general? Should I focus on some more specific aspect of my topic?

___ Does my thesis deal directly with the topic at hand, or is it a declaration of my personal feelings?

___ Does my thesis indicate the direction of my argument? Does it suggest a structure for my paper?

___ Does my introductory paragraph define terms important to my thesis? If I am writing a research paper, does my introduction place my thesis within the larger, ongoing scholarly discussion about my topic?

___ Is the language in my thesis vivid and clear? Have I structured my sentence so that the important information is in the main clause? Have I used subordinate clauses to house less important information? Have I used parallelism to show the relationship between parts of my thesis? In short, is this thesis the very best sentence that it can be?