***Writing Workshop: Thesis Statements***

Remember that a thesis statement is a one to two sentence statement that identifies the main, unifying argument of your essay. Thus, it should be a **statement** (not a question), it should be **arguable** (a reasonable person needs to be able to disagree), and is should be **ONE point** (not three).

**Step 1:** Identify the purpose of your essay. This should drive the kind of thesis you write, but it is NOT your thesis itself.

The main purpose of my essay on (topic) is to (use the appropriate word or words) *explain, argue, explore, describe*

**Step 2:** Brainstorm ideas for your argument. Write down all of the words and phrases that come to mind when thinking about your topic. Capture your reactions.

**Step 3:** In a sentence or two, write down the preliminary thesis (main claim) that has emerged so far. (This should include an argument about whether or not social media is helpful or harmful and two to three reasons why).