

## **Purpose Versus Thesis**

### **Developing Your Purpose and Thesis**

*The general purpose is important. This is the goal you want to achieve. In our case with this speech the general purpose is to inform.*

*The specific purpose is also important. You must identify what you want to tell your audience. For example to inform my audience about...*

### **Thesis**

*Your thesis is the theme or point of view you would like your audience to receive from listening to your speech. This is the message you want your audience to remember no matter what.*

*So the purpose is to inform and the thesis is supposed to declare something. Here is an example:*

*General purpose: To inform*

*Specific purpose: To inform my audience three ways clay/ceramics influenced modern day life.*

*Thesis: Ceramics plays an important part in computer technology.*

### **Thesis Statements & Purpose Statements**

**Thesis Statements** *A thesis statement is a sentence that makes an assertion about a topic and predicts how the topic will be developed. It does not simply announce a topic: it says something about the topic.*

*Good: X has made a significant impact on the teenage population due to its . . .*

*Bad: In this paper, I will discuss X.*

*A thesis statement makes a promise to the reader about the scope, purpose, and direction of the paper. It summarizes the conclusions that the writer has reached about the topic. A thesis statement is generally located near the end of the introduction. Sometimes in a long paper, the thesis will be expressed in several sentences or an entire paragraph.*

*A thesis statement is focused and specific enough to be proven within the boundaries of the speech or paper.*

## **Purpose Statements**

*A purpose statement tells the reader what to expect in a paper and what the specific focus will be.*

*"This paper examines . . .," "The aim of this paper is to . . .," and "The purpose of this essay is to . . ."* are common beginnings.

*A purpose statement makes a promise to the reader about the development of the argument but does not preview the particular conclusions that the writer has drawn. (This is essentially the difference between a thesis statement and a purpose statement.)*

*Example: This speech will examine the history of ceramics and the impact of clay on modern day living.*

*Purpose vs. Thesis: examples*

### **Purpose**

- In this paper, I will examine the differences between my views of gender roles in the nuclear family versus the views of my mother.*
- In this essay, I will attempt to show the difference between the what the black fieldworkers of cotton-picking time felt in the morning versus what they felt in the evening.*

### **Thesis**

- Resulting from the collective shift in attitudes our country experienced during the 1970's, my views on gender roles in the nuclear family are more flexible than my mother's.*
- In cotton-picking time the late afternoons revealed the harshness of Black Southern life, which in the early morning had been softened by nature's blessing of grogginess, forgetfulness, and the soft lamplight.*

*For more information about developing a thesis statement see <http://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/Thesis.html>*