Writing Effective Thesis Statements

Academic assignments almost always ask students to convince the reader of a particular point of view on an issue. The thesis statement is the articulation of that viewpoint. When assignment instructions use words such as analyze, interpret, comment on, or compare and contrast, the instructor is usually asking you to state a thesis and defend it. The thesis statement is generally found at the end of the introduction (although this convention varies by discipline), and the body of the paper provides evidence in support of your thesis.

A well-constructed thesis statement:
- Reveals your interpretation of the subject matter or topic of the essay
- Prepares the reader for the content to follow
- Is stated in such a way that there could be opposing viewpoints as well
- Is specific enough to lead to substantial support

Examples

Assignment #1: Comment on the internationalization of university campuses in Canada.

Vague thesis statement:
The presence of international students on Canadian university campuses provides benefits to both domestic and foreign students.

Better thesis statement:
The academic and social interaction between international and domestic students on university campuses in Canada leads to greater tolerance, acceptance and celebration of diversity.

Other options:
To ensure the financial survival of universities into the future, the recruitment of international students is crucial.

The success of international students on university campuses in Canada is dependent on the availability of academic and social support programs.

Assignment #2: Discuss the relevancy of the role of Governor General in the Canadian political system.

Vague Thesis:
The role of Governor General is no longer relevant in Canadian politics.

Better Thesis:
The role of Governor General has evolved into an expensive, sentimental figurehead and is not essential to modern Canadian governance.

Another option:
Since Canada is an active member of the Commonwealth, the Governor General plays an essential role in Canadian politics.
Still trying to find time to determine your thesis statement.  Is it better to make it one of these:

- Universities continue to be under threat from cuts in funding, declining enrollment, and replacement by technology; therefore, universities need to adapt their programs and processes to more closely align with the needs of industry.

or this:

- The goal of a university education is not to provide vocational training; it is about social and personal development in addition to the acquisition of specific skills and knowledge.

For more information on thesis statements please refer to:

http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/thesis-statements/

http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/planning-and-organizing/thesis-statements

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/academic_writing/establishing_arguments/index.html