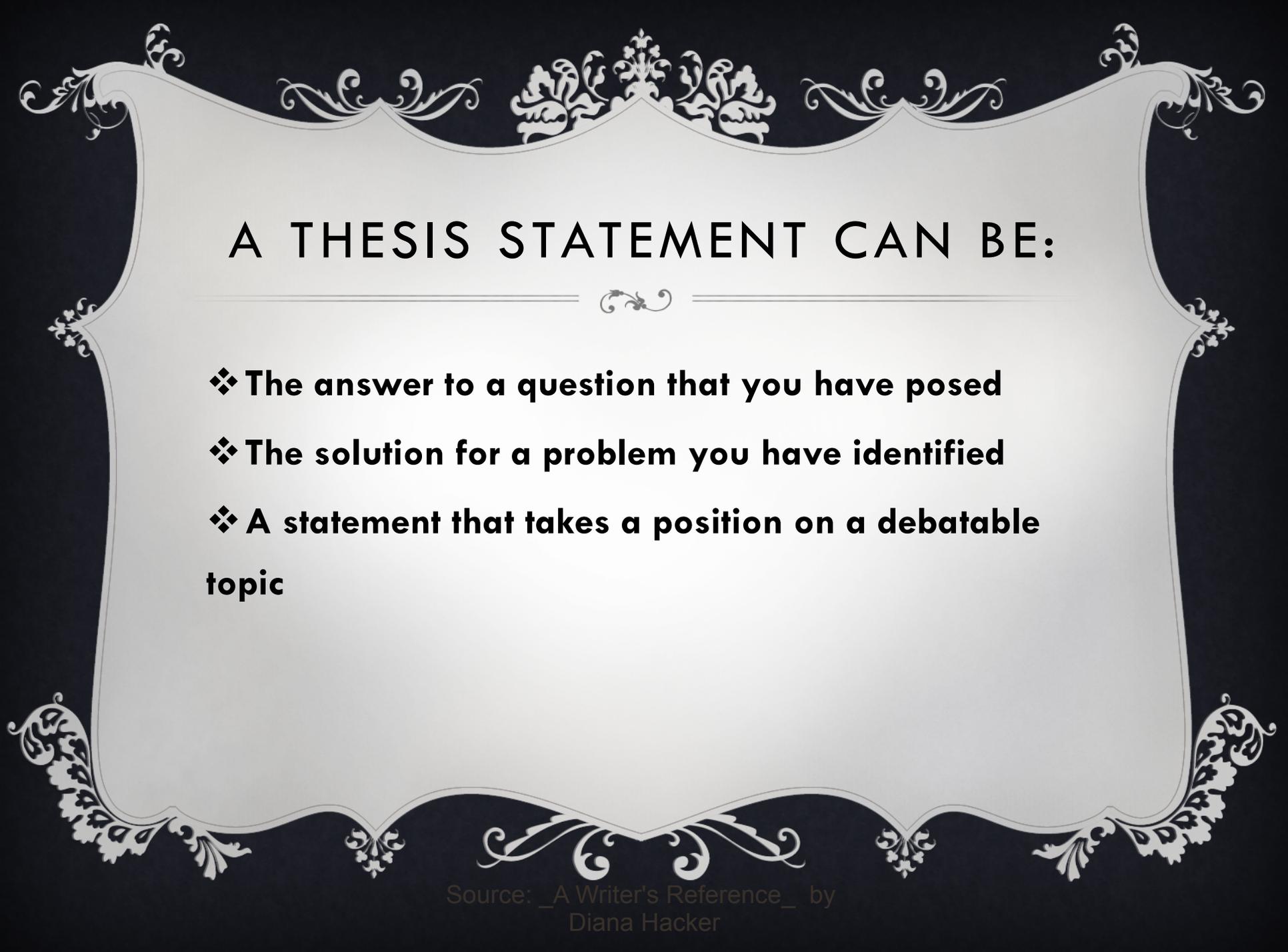
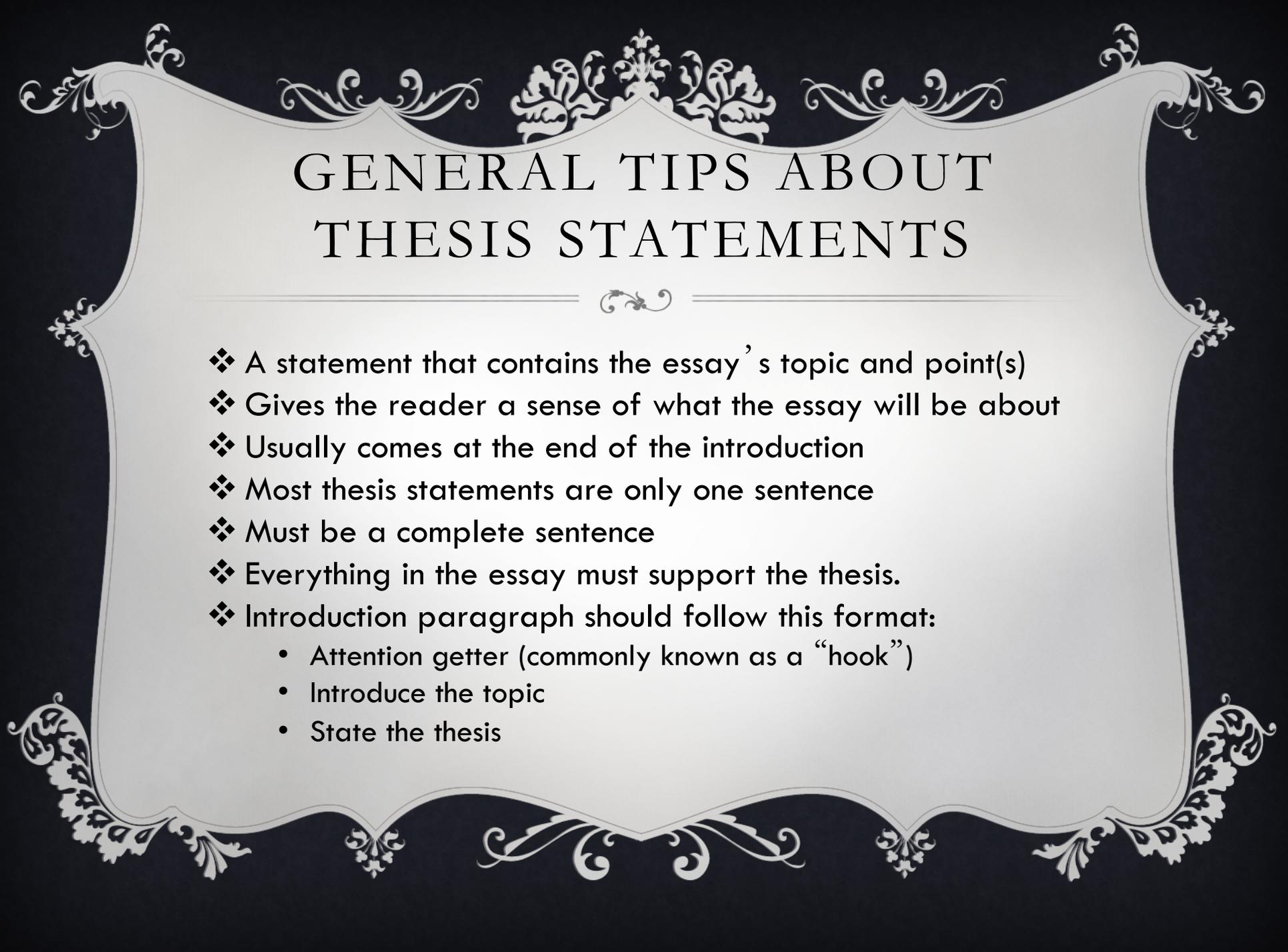


EASY STEPS TO A GREAT THESIS



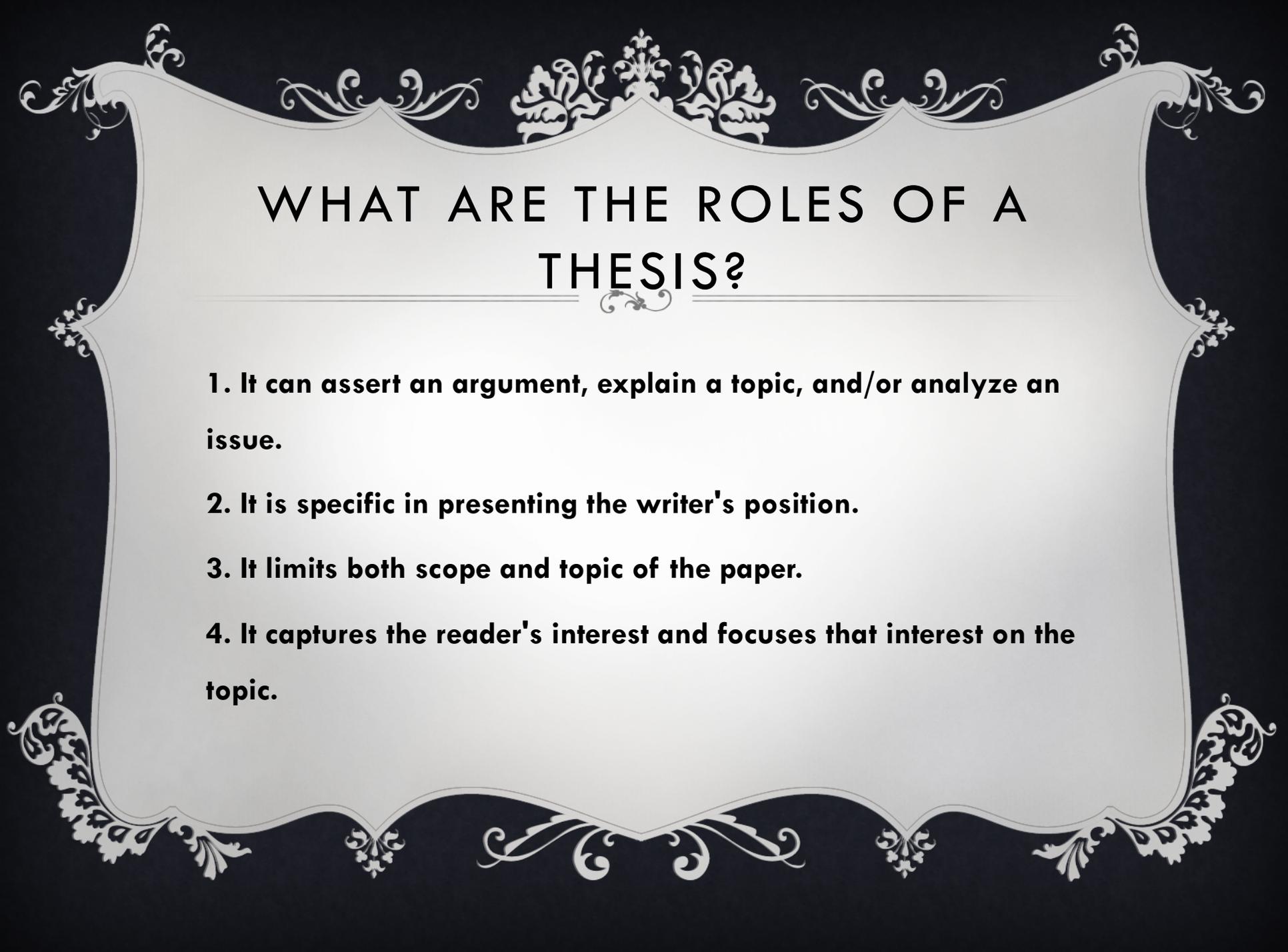
A THESIS STATEMENT CAN BE:

- ❖ **The answer to a question that you have posed**
- ❖ **The solution for a problem you have identified**
- ❖ **A statement that takes a position on a debatable topic**



GENERAL TIPS ABOUT THESIS STATEMENTS

- ❖ A statement that contains the essay's topic and point(s)
- ❖ Gives the reader a sense of what the essay will be about
- ❖ Usually comes at the end of the introduction
- ❖ Most thesis statements are only one sentence
- ❖ Must be a complete sentence
- ❖ Everything in the essay must support the thesis.
- ❖ Introduction paragraph should follow this format:
 - Attention getter (commonly known as a “hook”)
 - Introduce the topic
 - State the thesis



WHAT ARE THE ROLES OF A THESIS?

- 1. It can assert an argument, explain a topic, and/or analyze an issue.**
- 2. It is specific in presenting the writer's position.**
- 3. It limits both scope and topic of the paper.**
- 4. It captures the reader's interest and focuses that interest on the topic.**

KINDS OF THESIS STATEMENTS:

PERSUASIVE*

□ An persuasive paper makes a claim based on opinion, evaluation, or interpretation about a topic and proves this claim with specific evidence.

□ Persuasive thesis example: High school graduates should be required to take a year off to pursue community service projects before entering college in order to increase their maturity and global awareness.

*If you have been asked to *argue a point* or *choose a side* on an issue, this is likely the type of thesis you will use.

KINDS OF THESIS STATEMENTS:

ANALYTICAL*

- An analytical paper breaks the topic down into parts, examines each part, and determines how each part relates to the whole topic.
- Analytical thesis example: An analysis of the college admission process reveals one challenge facing counselors: accepting students with high test scores or students with strong extracurricular backgrounds.

*If you have been asked to *analyze* a topic, issue, or reading, this is the type of thesis you should use.

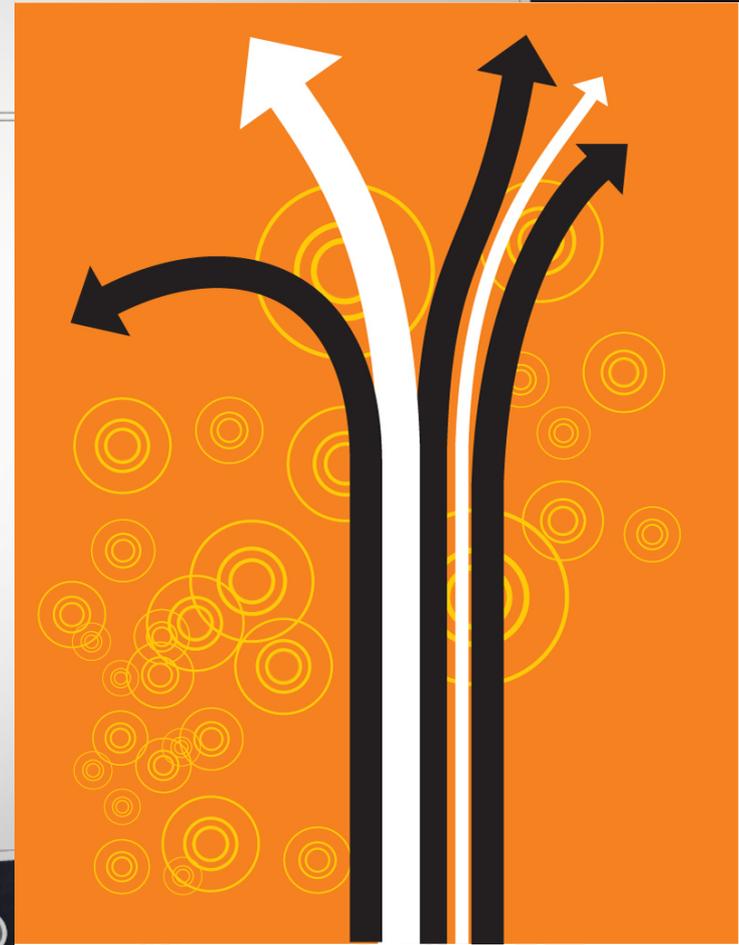
KINDS OF THESIS STATEMENTS: EXPOSITORY*

- An expository (explanatory) paper explains something to the audience.
- Expository thesis example: The life of the typical college student is characterized by time spent studying, attending class, and socializing with peers.

WAYS OF CONSTRUCTING THESIS STATEMENTS: THE LIST (ESSAY MAP)

- ❖ Contains essay's topic, point, and three supporting reasons

- ❖ Example: "To reduce the number of highway fatalities [topic and point], our country needs [purpose=persuasive] to enforce the national law that designates twenty-one as the legal minimum age to drink, set up check points on major holidays, and take away licenses from convicted drunk drivers [three reasons]."



WAYS OF CONSTRUCTING THESIS

STATEMENTS:

THE UMBRELLA



- ❖ Contains essay's topic, point, and alludes to reasons why the reader should believe you.
- ❖ Do not directly state the supporting reasons, but instead allude to them.
- ❖ Example: “Although thought to be humane and necessary, animal testing [topic] for medical and cosmetic purposes does not live up to its promises [point and reasons].”
- ❖ Do NOT use language like, “There are many reasons people don't like chocolate ice cream.”

THESIS DON'TS

❖ **Announce your thesis:** “In this essay, I am going to tell you about Mt. SAC college and why you should go there.” (Side note: Some instructors may encourage this type of statement, and always do what your instructor suggests)

❖ **Confuse your reader:** Just make sure that the topic and point are clear.

❖ **Cannot be a fact:** Doesn't allow you to prove anything because it's already factual

❖ **Don't be vague:** Words like “good,” “bad,” “right,” and “wrong,” don't convey specific meaning.

❖ **Cannot be a question:** “Don't you think animal testing is inhumane?”

- Does not give the point of the paper.
- Leaves it open for readers to fill in the blank.



CREATING A THESIS STATEMENT

1. Determine essay's topic (what you're talking about)

Example: Pixar's film *Up*

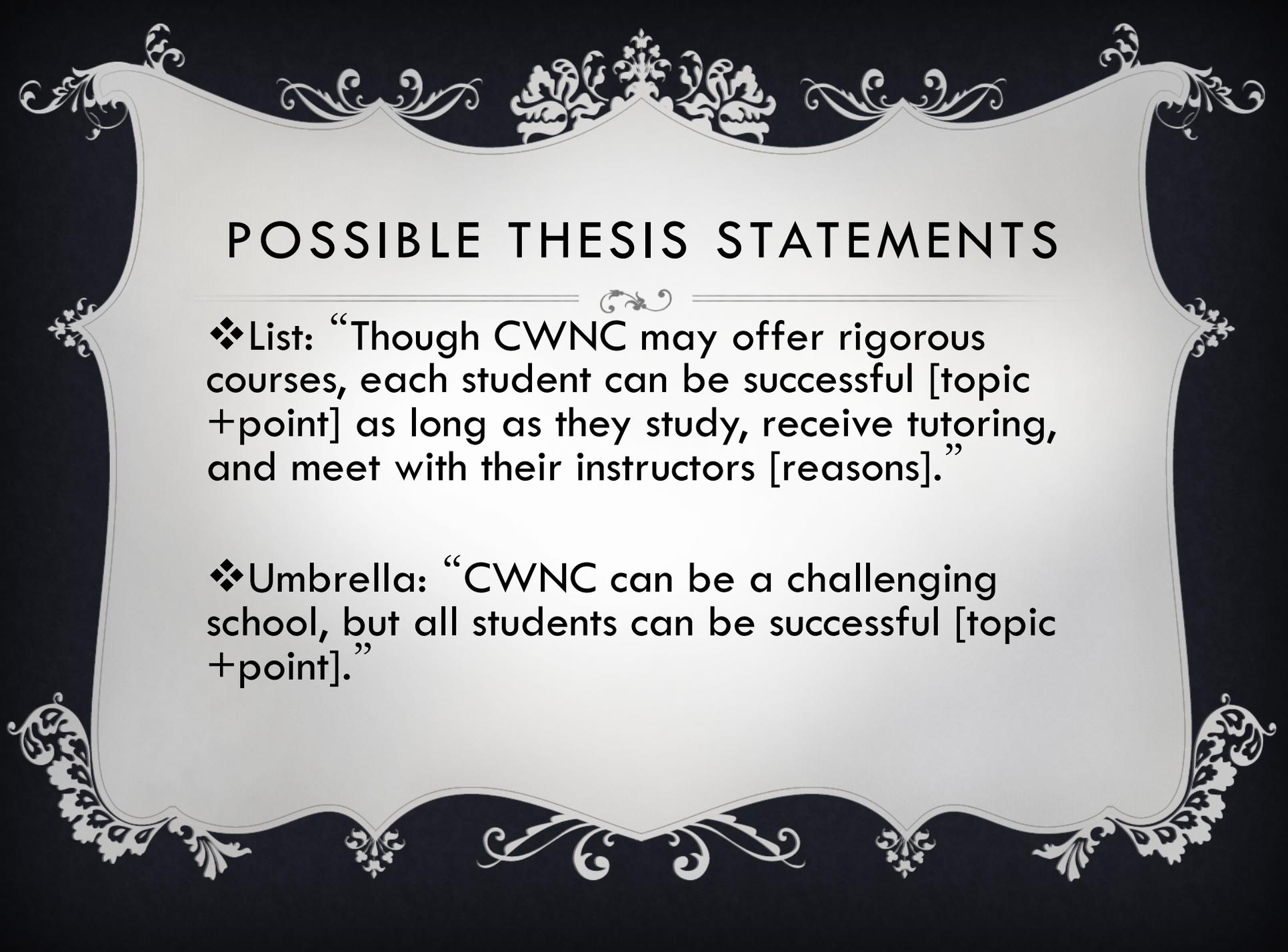
2. Determine what kind of paper you are writing and what kind of thesis statement you need to use: analytical, persuasive, or expository.

Example: Persuasive=It's not really a "kid" movie.

3. Determine the way you will construct your thesis: list or umbrella?

4. Put it all together!

Example: Pixar's most recent film, *Up*, should not be considered a "kid" movie because its character conflicts and main theme of loss are too complex for children to understand.



POSSIBLE THESIS STATEMENTS

❖ List: “Though CWNC may offer rigorous courses, each student can be successful [topic +point] as long as they study, receive tutoring, and meet with their instructors [reasons].”

❖ Umbrella: “CWNC can be a challenging school, but all students can be successful [topic +point].”