Thesis statement

A thesis statement:

- Presents **your opinion** [claim] on a **subject** [a work of art] and lists your **arguments** [developed in the body of your essay] to support your claim.
- Justifies **discussion**
- Is located at the **end of introductory** paragraph

A thesis statement **should never** contain the following: *in my opinion, I think, I believe,* etc. The entire thesis represents what you believe. In addition, it **should not** be in the form of a question.

Example 1.

In *Mont Sainte-Victoire*, Paul Cézanne used complementary color harmony as well as a number of repeated shapes and lines to unify the composition.

Figure 1. Paul Cézanne, *Mont Sainte-Victoire*, 1904. Oil on canvas, 22 1/2 x 38 1/4 in. (57.2 x 97.2 cm). Princeton University Art Museum

Body paragraphs’ main ideas:
- complementary color harmony
- repeated shapes
- lines
Example 2.

Rembrandt’s use of chiaroscuro, limited color palette, and implied directional lines contribute to the sense of drama in *The Night Watch*.

Body paragraphs’ main ideas
- chiaroscuro
- color
- implied directional lines

In *Night in St. Cloud*, Munch transformed a view of a dark room into a melancholic portrayal of a lonely man, seemingly deep in reflection; Munch achieved this through his masterful use of directional lines, color, light, and texture.

Exercise:
Analyze the thesis below.