Part III: Creating a Thesis Statement

Directions: Read the sample thesis statements and notes. Next, for the prompt you selected above, write one open thesis statement and one closed.

Closed Thesis Statement: Gives reasons (often three-pronged) for the argument.

SAMPLE THESIS:
Disobedience, then, when purposefully applied to a just cause, acts as a driving force for social progress in that it is a central component for social and scientific revolutions, can challenge those who abuse power, and sparks innovation of thought.

Through this closed thesis, the writer outlines the body paragraphs that will follow:

1st Body Paragraph: How disobedience is a necessary component for social and scientific revolutions.
2nd Body Paragraph: How it can challenge those who abuse power.
3rd Body Paragraph: How it sparks innovation of thought.

Prompt #: ___

Your Closed Thesis Statement: ________________________________________________
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Open Thesis Statement: Articulates a clear and specific position without outlining the essay.

SAMPLE OPEN THESIS:
Singer’s argument, while noble in its intent, would act counterproductively to its intended purpose, paralyzing the world’s economy.

In this open thesis, we do not get an outline of the essay. It is specific and concedes that Singer’s solution is “noble in its intent.” We know the writer’s position – that Singer’s solution would be counterproductive and paralyze the world’s economy – but we do not know how or in what order the author will argue his or her points. This offers some freedom to the writer; however, the writer must still create a logical and organized progression of ideas.

Your Open Thesis Statement: __________________________________________
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Evaluating the Two Methods: Based on your two thesis statements, which one do you feel is more effective? Why?