A **thesis statement** is your controlling idea, your position, your opinion. It is the summary of your purpose.

A thesis statement is made up of a limited topic, a comment about the limited topic, and preferably a plan of development. **Example:** Mountaineering is a beneficial activity since it enhances physical strength, develops problem-solving, and improves self-confidence.

**Limiting your topic:**
Ask yourself these questions:
1– What do I want to write about? **Sports.**
2– What kind of sports do I want to write about? Olympic sports, winter sports, extreme sports, etc.? **Extreme Sports.**
3– What Kind of extreme sports do I want to write about? Paragliding, canoeing, snowboarding, mountaineering, etc.? **Mountaineering.**

**Deciding on what to say about the topic:**
The comment usually depends on the type of essay you want to write. **For example:**
1– **Effects:** Mountaineering is a beneficial activity.
2– **Causes:** Young adults decide to practice mountaineering for several reasons.
3– **Similarities:** Mountaineering and ice climbing are similar in several ways.
4– **Contrast:** Mountaineering and hiking are different in several ways.

**Writing your plan of development:**
The plan of development shows how you will organize your supporting material in the essay. In the following example, the reader expects to read about how mountaineering **enhances physical strength in the first body paragraph** and how it **improves self confidence in the last body paragraph.**

**Example:** Mountaineering is a beneficial activity since it enhances physical strength, develops problem-solving, and improves self-confidence.

**Organizing your supporting material:**
There are several ways to organize your support:
1– Chronological order (time — ending with the most recent event)
2– Spatial order (division/parts)
3– Emphatic order (least important to most important)
4– Reverse emphatic order (most important to least important)

**Features of a Thesis Statement:**
1– It should never be a question. **Incorrect:** What are the ways to stop cheating at schools? **Correct:** There are several ways to stop cheating at schools.

2– It should never be an announcement. **Incorrect:** In this paper, I will discuss the methods schools can implement to stop cheating. **Correct:** There are several methods schools can implement to stop cheating.
3- It should not be too broad or too narrow. It should be specific enough to allow you to develop your topic. 

Incorrect: Students cheat on exams. (too broad)
25 students cheated on the exam. (too narrow)
Correct: Students employ many devices to cheat.

4- It should be a simple sentence to avoid having two points to be developed.

Incorrect: ¹Even though educational institutions have implemented several means to eradicate cheating on exams, ²students still manage to employ novel methods that escape supervisors.
Correct: Students always manage to employ novel methods that escape supervisors.