Sample Thesis Statements

Basic – Thesis is present, but simply re-states the prompt.

Prompt: To what extent did the First Great Awakening influence the American colonies?
Basic Thesis: the First Great Awakening greatly influenced the American colonies.

Good – Thesis answers the whole prompt and adds information or categories of analysis to the prompt.

Prompt: To what extent did the First Great Awakening influence the American colonies?
Good Thesis: The First Great Awakening greatly influenced the politics, economics, and social life of the American colonies.

Sophisticated – Thesis answers the whole prompt without simply re-stating and includes “sophisticated” elements, such as change over time, comparison/contrast, etc.

Prompt: To what extent did the First Great Awakening influence the American colonies?
Sophisticated Thesis: Although the First Great Awakening heavily influenced religious life in the American colonies it had very little effect on politics or economics.
Sophisticated Thesis: The influence of the First Great Awakening on the American colonies was widespread during the 1730s and 1740s, but produced relatively little lasting effect, except in the South.