

Example	Need for Improvement	Revised Statement
<p><b>Specific</b> Particular subject(s), details, types of evidence. What content can we expect from this writing?</p>		
<p>“This paper will address the characteristics of a responsible art museum.”</p>	<p>Which characteristics? Why are they being addressed, and how?</p>	<p>“Ethical procurement practices and community engagement instill trust in an art museum and improve its patronage.”</p>
<p><b>Arguable</b> Your claim; open to disagreement; needs explanation, proof. What will I learn from you?</p>		
<p>“Great Smoky Mountains is America’s most beautiful and most visited National Park.”</p>	<p>Is this only opinion? Why doesn’t it matter that it’s the most visited?</p>	<p>“Great Smoky Mountains’ effective publicity, maintenance, and crowd management could improve other National Parks’ tourism while protecting their landscapes.”</p>
<p><b>Narrow</b> Limited content; precise areas of concern (population, time period, . . . ). What can you accomplished in this piece?</p>		
<p>“Art is essential to society.”</p>	<p>How can you cover this vast topic? What is at stake in this idea?</p>	<p>“Federal government should increase art funding even in hard economic times.”</p>
<p><b>Defensible</b> Within the means of your research and support materials. Do you have enough convincing evidence for all these claims?</p>		
<p>“Life for humans, animals, and plant life would be better in a colony on Mars.”</p>	<p>How do you know? What evidence could you provide for this?</p>	<p>“Human impact on Earth’s ecosystems has made survival difficult for all living species on the planet, making it our responsibility to counter climate change.”</p>
<p><b>Original</b> A new idea; something distinct from all other claims on the topic. What new perspective or connections can you bring to the discussion?</p>		
<p>“As Hannah Gadsby argues, Picaso’s misogyny cannot be overlooked in assessing his contributions to the art world.”</p>	<p>How is your argument different? What’s your fresh take?</p>	<p>“America’s obsession with celebrity makes it impossible to separate the art from the artist, leading to complication, but not cancellation.”</p>
<p><b>Significant</b> Impacting discourse within the topic, the genre, the field, etc. Why does your claim matter outside this paper? this class? academia?</p>		
<p>“Henry James’s <i>Daisy Miller</i> shows us that there really is no place like home.”</p>	<p>Anything more compelling to say? Something valuable to a broader context?</p>	<p>“In <i>Daisy Miller</i>, Daisy stands in both ignorance of and opposition to the European elite, who represent traditional rules of decorum.”</p>