THESIS STATEMENT

Assertion
An assertion (also known as a topic sentence) is your statement about the topic under consideration. Just as a thesis informs the reader of the topic of an essay, a good assertion lets the reader know the topic of a paragraph. An assertion should take a stand or make a claim about an issue. It should reveal your position on the topic. In addition, an assertion/topic sentence should warrant discussion; it should be a position or stand that is not obvious or self-explanatory. Remember, this is the only component of AXES that should almost always be one-sentence long. All other components need development past one sentence.

Example
An assertion requires proof or evidence. An example is a quote or paraphrase from the reading that supports or proves your assertion. Select quotes or paraphrases that confirm (“back up”) your assertion.

Explanation
Examples (quotes or paraphrases) require explanation. That is, you must spell out or demonstrate how your example actually supports or proves your assertion. A good explanation illustrates or shows how the example confirms/supports the claim from your assertion.

Significance
Importance is a synonym for significance: so is consequence. Every paragraph should include a statement that tells the reader what makes your assertion important. Significance answers the question “So what?” Your significance should tell the reader how this paragraph relates to/ is significant to your thesis statement.