A thesis statement articulates an informed opinion based on objective, scholarly research. It answers the assignment prompt or research question in a single sentence and is composed of two parts: a **claim** and an **organizing principle**.

### COMPONENTS OF A THESIS STATEMENT

1. **The Claim**—This part of the thesis statement directly responds to the assignment prompt and answers the research question. This answer will be a defendable statement.

2. **The Organizing Principle**—The list of reasons that support your claim that appears in the second half of your thesis statement. This part of your thesis provides the organization for your body paragraphs.

### CRAFTING A THESIS STATEMENT

Although academic writing typically requires a more complex line of thinking, the following example illustrates the process of crafting a thesis statement:

**Assignment Prompt:** Compare and contrast waffles and pancakes.

**Proposed Research Question:** Do consumers prefer waffles or pancakes? (Note: The research question includes the target audience “consumers,” which helps make your claim direct and specific.)

**Thesis statement (which answers the research question):**

*Consumers prefer waffles to pancakes because of their density, texture, and flavor.*

Note: For more examples of academic thesis statements, see “Thesis Statements: Part 2.” For further information on the organizing principle, see our resource entitled “Consistent Language and Key Terms.”