Complex, Evaluative Thesis Statements

How should I write a quality evaluative thesis?

- ✓ Evaluate the existing or proposed solutions to the problem you researched. Possibly based on:
    - o Scope of issue
        - ▪ Causes of problem
        - ▪ Significant effects of problem
        - ▪ Who is affected? Why is it an important problem?
    - o Disadvantages of potential solutions
        - ▪ Barriers that stand in way of solving problem
    - o Advantages of potential solutions
        - ▪ Why does the research say these will help? Won't help?

- ✓ Identify *how (techniques)* you will prove thesis (i.e. blueprint for body paragraphs) What will you need to cover to fully prove your thesis
    - o See above

- ✓ Answer the questions: So what? Who cares? What's the point? Why?

- ✓ Use strong verbs and distinct ideas to make a clear, opinionated statement;
    - o **AVOID** generalities like "many reasons" or "changes" or "shows".

- ✓ Consider beginning with a subordinating conjunction like: **If, as, since, when, because, despite, etc.**

- ✓ Get right to the point in **ONE** sentence (not three sentences later or over the course of 3 sentences).

The thesis statement needs to answer
- • The prompt…
- • Because …
- • Which means/so what …

Example Thesis:
Because education legislation is data driven there is an increased demand for student testing, and as a result student engagement is down and stress is up; therefore, students and parents have begun to "opt out" of high stakes testing, which is greatly affecting the amount of funding schools receive from the state.

From this thesis, you can see my paper will have several paragraphs about the following topics:
- ✓ Data driven nature of education related legislation
- ✓ Increased demand in schools for testing
- ✓ Low engagement and high stress
- ✓ Opt out as a possible solution and evaluation of negative effects of opt outs on schools in general – is there a better way to address the issue?

Criteria	4	3	2	1
Controlling Idea 3.2a. Articulate a position through a sophisticated claim or thesis statement.	• Central idea of thesis is clear, very specific, and takes a unique and thoughtful point of view on their issue. • Thesis includes supporting points and reader knows what paragraphs will be about. • Supporting points flow and expand to deepen the reader's understanding and to provoke thinking. • Thesis states insightful evaluative claim on a solution to their issue	• Contains a clear central idea that establishes a position. • Supporting points build and develop so that the position is clearly explained. • Thesis states an evaluative claim on a solution to their issue	• Central idea exists and is either too **broad** or too **obvious**. May only state facts, vs. take a stand or have an opinion on anything. • Central idea can't be supported. • Thesis states claim on the solution, but doesn't clearly evaluate the solutions effectiveness	-Thesis is poorly written and/or not the entire focus. - Thesis does not address the prompt at all and is missing many parts

Write your working thesis statement here:

Peer Feedback #1		Peer Feedback #2	
Score for Controlling Idea:	**Why:**	**Score for Controlling Idea:**	**Why:**

Re-Write your <u>revised</u> working thesis statement here: