Using Notecards to Craft a Good Thesis Statement

At the beginning stages of drafting an essay, I will hand out two note cards and have the students write the preliminary thesis statement on each note card (same statement on each). Upon entering class I will collect one note card for credit and have the students peer review with three other students in the class using the other note card. After 8-10 minutes the student will have reviewed his/her thesis with three other students in the class. I collect and take both cards home. I highlight the aspects of the initial and revised thesis statements that the student should use. I return the note cards and ask the student to write a thesis that he or she will use to write the paper. I do this with the first and second essay assignments, just to get things moving and developed.