



# FORMING A THESIS

## Choose a Topic

- Consider what your assignment prompt asks you to do
- Inform yourself about your topic, start researching
- Focus on one aspect of your topic, relate it to topics discussed in class
- Make sure there are adequate (trustworthy!) sources available on this topic

[Click to type]

## Derive a Main Point from Topic

- Look for patterns in your overall evidence
- Look for patterns in each source
- Make sure your sources support this idea
- Make sure this is an **arguable** point

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**How do I narrow down my original topic to a main point?**

Answer these questions to help find a more specific main point from your original topic

*Who? What? When?  
Where? Why? How?*

## Compose a Draft Thesis

Having a hard time getting started? Try...

- A. Although some scholars argue that \_\_\_\_\_, closer examination shows that \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. \_\_\_\_\_ is a result of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.
- C. \_\_\_\_\_ uses \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to prove \_\_\_\_\_.
- D. An analysis of \_\_\_\_\_ shows \_\_\_\_\_.

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## Refine and elaborate your Draft Thesis

- Ask if your draft thesis addresses the assignment
- Question each part of your draft thesis

- Clarify vague phrases and assertions – be specific in everything you write
- Consider alternative ways of wording your draft thesis
- Avoid elementary wording – consider referencing a thesaurus

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## Complete Final Thesis

- Relate thesis to ideas discussed in class
- Keep your assignment in mind – arguing class-related ideas will be more successful than arguing only semi-related ideas
- Make your thesis **precise, focused, and arguable**
- Your thesis should allude to sub-theses or the information you use to support your argument

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