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

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

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 ______.

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

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