

Thesis Builder

Use the following tricks, in any order, to help write drafts of your thesis statement.

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The essay question or topic

Understand the question!

Break it down. Find key question words. Here is an example question:

"Were power struggles during the colonial period necessary and good for everyone in the long run? Examine the needs of three interest groups, and their means to influence power."

Keywords = struggles + good + long run.

Rewrite the question in simple terms = Were power struggles good?

A really short way of saying the question!

Okay, here is my first draft gut response to the question or topic:

What's my angle?

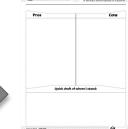
Do I intend to respond from a certain point of view, or go in a certain direction. What's the slant? What's the angle? For example: "Power struggles were good in general, but it was easier for some than for others"



THESIS (First draft of a focused thesis statement. Share this one and get some second opinions)

Balancing pros and cons

Jotting down a few quick ideas might inspire you to take a side, to take a position on the question or topic. Seeing pros and cons might help determine the direction **you** want to go. Use a T-chart organizer for that.



Write my thesis!