How to Build a Thesis

The Foundation of a Great Paper!

What is a Thesis?

A statement of purpose that acts as the guide for the rest of your paper

- Used in a variety of essay types and is one of the key things readers look to for guidance and position
- Other names: statement of purpose, claim, position, etc

THESIS STATEMENT

Breaking it Down

Steps:

1. **Restate** the prompt/situation
2. Your **What**
   a. Your opinion
3. Your **Why**
   a. Your "because" statement

Your Good Thesis Statement Checklist

Includes Your **Topic**	✔
Includes Your **Opinion**	✔
Is **Clear**	✔
Is **Specific**	✔
Is **Arguable**	✔
Outlines your paper	✔
Uses effective **word choices**	✔

Example:

In recent years , the biggest threat to the environmental health of Californians has been droughts because of their impact on the rise of forest fires, water insecurity, and declining agricultural production

Example of Rearranged Thesis

Characterized by a unique blending of traditional formline art with modern, mainstream themes, as well as utilizing multiple mediums such as carving and prints, Cook's art seems to send an immediate and obvious message from the very first glance- Indigenous culture is not a thing of the past.

- Still includes your **Restatement**, **What**, and **Why** but is rearranged for creativity!

Give it a Try!

Break into groups and create your own thesis for the following prompt. Don't worry so much about the content but focus on the structure.

<u>Prompt</u>: There is an age long debate about which animal is truly man's best pet- cats or dogs! Write an argumentative essay arguing for cats or dogs in which you must identify and analyze what traits truly make them the best.

Review

A great thesis includes a **Restatement, What,** and **Why** and should be defendable and informative. This is the foundation of your essay and is a great place to start when brainstorming!

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Outlines your paper	✔
Uses effective **word choices**	✔