

The Process of Developing An Effective Thesis – An Interactive Worksheet

Concept:

Steps taken in developing a thesis for a paper:

Step 1: Explore your own knowledge about the subject and make generalizations based on your experiences.

Step 2: Explore the assignment and develop an argument or opinion that responds to the question that is tasked.

Step 3: Take a stand on the subject and create a working thesis.

Step 4: Find evidence to support your own working thesis.

Step 5: As you write, continue to change and update your working thesis until it fits your purpose and your evidence.

Reflect: After reading your thesis statement, the reader should think, “This essay is going to convince me of something. I’m not convinced yet, but I’m interested to see how I might be.”

Application:

Evaluate the following thesis statements and write a revised thesis for each:

The civil rights movement protects minority’s rights.

Improved: _____

There are considerable objections to the romantic comedies in today’s theatre.

Improved: _____

In my paper, I will discuss the relationship between Augsburg and the authoritarian regime recently instituted in Chile.

Improved: _____

This paper will confront the many forms of financial difficulties that students, past and present, will face while taking classes and, also, with resolutions or at least partial resolutions that students can embark upon, even though they probably will not be simple to complete within the three to seven years that the normal college student will spend while on campus.

Improved: _____

Finally:

Revise the following two working thesis statements by incorporating the ideas from both statements into one coherent, well-developed thesis statement:

William Shakespeare's *Othello* is a vulgar tale of adultery and retribution. Individuals in William Shakespeare's *Othello* disappoint the audience for they neglect to meet evident expectations.

Improved: _____

Thanks to the following web pages:

<http://web.uccs.edu/wrtgcntr/handouts/newhandouts/Writing%20an%20Effective%20Thesis.doc>.

<http://www.bcps.org/offices/lis/models/tips/thesis.html>

www.fas.harvard.edu/~wricntr/documents/Thesis.html