

## *DEVELOPING A THESIS*

These are some tips to help you develop a thesis for your paper.

*Remember that a topic is not a thesis*

*Narrow your topic to develop a thesis*

Suppose your topic is gun control. This subject is too large for a three- to five-page paper. If you try to create a thesis based on such a broad topic, the thesis will be too vague and general. For example, “Gun control is a problem in this country” is too broad to be a good thesis. To narrow your thesis, ask yourself what interests you about this topic. How do you feel about the topic? What are the most important aspects?

*Make a point in your thesis*

Develop a thesis that will allow you to make a point about the topic. For example, if you find the issue of children and guns to be interesting, you might decide to develop a thesis arguing that laws should be passed making guns inaccessible to children in their homes.

*Include a verb in your thesis*

A verb turns a topic into a thesis. For example, this is a thesis about making guns inaccessible to children: “Because of the recent rash of violence in the schools, parents should be held responsible and jailed if their children commit a crime with their gun.” When you have developed a thesis, test it by asking the following questions.

Is this thesis defensible?

Can it be supported?

Does the thesis clearly state my point of view for the reader?

*Say something interesting*

Your thesis should say something interesting, informative, and new to the reader. Writing which states the obvious is not very useful.

*Revise your thesis after you have started writing, if necessary*

As you write your paper, you may discover new ideas that lead you to rethink your thesis. It is important to revise your thesis according to these new ideas.