THESIS

Once you’ve narrowed your theme to a manageable topic, you are ready to write a thesis. Your thesis will lay out the argument for your paper.

You must email your thesis to your grading coach by January 25. (NOTE: You must also sign-up for a conference with your grading coach on that date).

Here are some guidelines that you should use to check that your thesis is really ready to submit:

1.*Can my thesis be supported given the requirements of this assignment?* That means the thesis will take research to support, but will be adequately addressed in 6-10 pages.

2.*Have I taken a position that others might challenge or oppose?* If your thesis simply states facts that no one would, or even could, disagree with, it's possible that you are simply providing a summary, rather than making an argument. For instance, "people should avoid driving under the influence of alcohol," would be unlikely to evoke any opposition.

3.*Is my thesis statement specific enough?* Thesis statements that are too vague often do not have a strong argument. If your thesis contains words like "good" or "successful," see if you could be more specific: *why* is something "good"; what specifically makes something "successful"? A strong thesis proves a point without discussing “everything about …” Instead of music, think "American jazz in the 1930s" and your argument about it.

4.*Does my thesis pass the "So what?" test?* If a reader's first response is, "So what?" then you need to clarify, to forge a relationship, or to connect to a larger issue.

5.*Does my thesis pass the "how and why?" test?* If a reader's first response is "how?" or "why?" your thesis may be too open-ended and lack guidance for the reader. See what you can add to give the reader a better take on your position right from the beginning.

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