

CHOOSING AND NARROWING A TOPIC

Theoretically any topic is suitable for research, but when you come to practice this topic is not so simple. A topic for a thesis research paper should lead to an interesting thesis statement, narrowed to just the right scope, for which sources are plentiful in the library or wherever else you plan to do your research.

STEPS IN CHOOSING A TOPIC

There are many steps in choosing a topic:

- 1. Picking an interesting subject.**
- 2. Narrowing the topic to be appropriate for research.**
- 3. Pinning it down precisely to a thesis statement for writing.**
- 4. Ensuring that the resources used are reliable available.**

THESIS STATEMENT

A thesis statement is the main idea of your paper, the single all-encompassing assertion that you want the readers to accept after reading your paper. The thesis statement is the essence of a paper, and everything else in the paper is aimed at supporting it. Thus, everything in the paper would exist to help, explain, or support the thesis, because the thesis is the center, the focus of the entire paper.

Thesis statement don't always appear in the final paper in such neat, formulaic model.

PARTS OF THESIS STATEMENT

Thesis statements have two parts:

1. A subject.
2. An assertion.

All thesis statement, then, have a subject and an assertion about that subject. A good thesis statement has a narrowed subject and a precise assertion.

EXAMPLES

- **The decision of the Texan to defend the Alamo rather than abandon it was foolhardy.**
- **The parochialism of the early modern Olympics caused international bitterness.**

For each paper with a thesis on certain topic there should be:

- 1. The introduction would define the thesis and interest readers in learning about it.**
- 2. Including a background section would give the readers some information about the topic, the body of the paper would cover something about the topic.**
- 3. The conclusion would summarize the key points of the paper, reinforcing the thesis and finishing it in such a way that the readers would feel that the paper is finished.**

EXAMPLES

Subject

The decision of the Texans
to defend the Alamo rather
than abandon

Assertion

(was)
foolhardy

ان القرار الذي اتخذه Texans للدفاع عن الامو بدل تركه هو متهور و طائش.

Thesis statements don't always appear in the final paper in such a neat, formulaic model. Then above example might be read like this in the final paper:

The Texans at the Alamo were a collection of free-spirited frontiersmen more used to fighting bears and tumbleweed than combating the organized army approaching them. And this free spirit – this foolhardiness – was the real and regrettable basis for their tragic decision to defend the Alamo rather than to retreat.

Still, this thesis (as we've seen) and all thesis statements can be reworded to fit the formula of “*subject*” (is , was, should be, etc.) *assertion*.

Here's how we could reword the sample thesis on the Olympics to fit the formulaic model :

Subject

- The parochialism of the (was) early modern Olympics

Assertion

the cause of international bitterness

ان السبب وراء النقد الدولي العنيف هو الفكر الضيق في اجراء
العاب اولمبية مبكرة .

**THANK YOU FOR LISTENING
AND NEXT LECTURE PREPARE
THESIS: NARROWED SUBJECT
THESIS: PRECISE ASSERTION**