

**THESIS: PRECISE
ASSERTION**

PRECISE ASSERTION

The second key to a good thesis statement is a precise assertion about the narrowed subject. Saying “ The decision of the Texans to defend the Alamo rather than abandon it was bad “ isn't precise. That decision could have been bad because it led to the deaths of most of the Alamo’s defenders. So here you need to use a much more precise assertion of words like “foolhardy”, “tactically brilliant”, or “the result of chaotic leadership” such kind of expressions could lead the reader and writer to a more clear direction.

When you’re first working with a topic, you might not be able to articulate your assertion, so might began with a wrong word.

Your goal in writing a thesis statement, then, is not to arouse doubt, but instead to narrow your topic and precisely define your stand on it so that your paper will have a clear focus.

CHOOSING A TOPIC FOR A THESIS PAPER

There are several recommendations on how to pick a topic and starting to narrow it down to make the scale of research reasonable, and will make you move to the final step which is the final thesis statement as research progress, these recommendations are:

1. Choose a general topic that interest you.
2. Do some quick preliminary reading to learn more about your topic and to see if resources are available.
3. While doing preliminary reading and throughout your research, develop a “working” thesis statement and continue to refine it.

CHOOSING A GENERAL TOPIC

Practical tips in choosing a general topic:

- 1. Don't choose a topic that is trite (old):** Try to choose a topic that has something new and less discussed.
- 2. Don't choose a topic that is too contemporary (new or modern):** if you choose a new topic or a modern one you might have difficulty in finding resources and reliable material.
- 3. Don't choose a topic that is too obscure (unknown or vague or ambiguous):** you will be in trouble if you choose a topic for which there are few good sources in your library.

4. Don't choose a topic just because you've read an interesting book about it: Books can lead to fine topics, the trouble is that you may not be able to find any sources except that one book you read. Then you become dependent on that book's organization, limiting you to little more than a book report. Worse you might be stuck with that book's support, with no other sources to help you judge the validity of the book's evidence.

The key, then is to choose a topic that you are curious about, yet something practical for research and writing. You will want a topic that keeps the you motivated and allows you to learn as well. And keeping in mind practical considerations will help you to avoid pitfalls that otherwise would limit the quality of the paper you produce.

PRELIMINARY READING

Once you have selected a general topic you need to work toward a more narrowed subject and gradually toward a precise assertion. If you have selected a topic that interest you but not familiar with then you can't narrow the topic without reading about it.

You can do this by consulting reliable encyclopedias. Such as “ The Encyclopaedia Britannica” and “The Encyclopaedia Americana” these are reliable sources and available in most college libraries. They can give a quick basic facts about your topic and perhaps some of the important questions about it.

After reviewing several encyclopedia articles, the next step is to consult the card catalog to check the books on your topic. You should write down the complete call numbers, titles, and authors, and then go to the stacks and search the books. At this point you will know if your topic is good and workable. If the library does not have enough resources on your topic you can change it. You need to check the resources, magazines, newspapers, or everything that will provide information about your topic before deciding to change it. You need to spend time searching about your topic before deciding to start writing about it.

During preliminary reading and research most of us develop an opinion about our topic. The working thesis uses this opinion to help to set the scope of research because this thesis statement will make our research solid when getting to discover information bit by bit during research.

PROCESS OF TOPIC SELECTION TO THESIS STATEMENT

- 1. Select a general topic that interests you, but be sure that it avoids the pitfalls we have mentioned.**
- 2. Do some preliminary reading in handy sources to find out whether your topic and your idea about it seem to be based on accurate assumptions and whether enough sources appear to be available. If your topic has some doubt you should change it.**
- 3. Develop a working thesis statement to set a reasonable scope for research. You should check to see if your subject is narrowed and the assertion is precise and keep your mind open to shift to another topic when necessary.**

**THANKS FOR ENJOING THE
LECTURES ABOUT CHOOSING
AND NARROWING A TOPIC**