

Creating A Provisional Thesis Or Research Question

In your essay, you **must** have a thesis statement. A thesis statement should tell your reader what **the point of your paper** is, and it should also tell the reader the **evidence that you use to support your point**. This evidence **should** be listed in **the order that it appears in your paper**. This thesis should follow your lead, and what you are about to do might help you create a thesis statement.

Use the prompts below to structure your provisional thesis. Fill it out as is, but when it comes time to put this in your essay, feel free to modify. **TODAY YOU ARE WRITING A PROVISIONAL THESIS—IT IS OPEN TO CHANGE.**

PROVISIONAL THESIS STATEMENT

In this paper I [**Circle one or write in your own verb:** argue, show, demonstrate
_____] that _____

_____.

I show [**Briefly paraphrase what you wrote on the lines immediately above**]
_____ by 1) _____,
2) _____, 3) _____,
and 4) _____.