



*The essay question or topic*

# Thesis Builder

Use the following tricks, in any order, to help write drafts of your thesis statement.

## Understand the question!

Break it down. Find key question words.  
Here is an example question:

*“Were power struggles during the colonial period necessary and good for everyone in the long run? Examine the needs of three interest groups, and their means to influence power.”*

Keywords = struggles + good + long run.

Rewrite the question in simple terms =  
*Were power struggles good?*

**K  
E  
Y  
W  
O  
R  
D  
S**

**A really short way of saying the question!**

**Okay, here is my first draft gut response to the question or topic:**

## What’s my angle?

Do I intend to respond from a certain point of view, or go in a certain direction. What’s the slant? What’s the angle?  
For example: “Power struggles were good in general, but it was easier for some than for others”



**THESIS (First draft of a focused thesis statement. Share this one and get some second opinions)**

## Balancing pros and cons

Jotting down a few quick ideas might inspire you to take a side, to take a position on the question or topic.  
Seeing pros and cons might help determine the direction **you** want to go. Use a T-chart organizer for that.

Where I stand	
Pros	Cons
Quick draft of where I stand	

## Write my thesis!

**A one sentence thesis!**

