

Paper Development/Revision Strategy: The Most Important Handout. Ever.

Thesis statement: The point your paper will prove/the overall point the paper argues is...

Remember: This thesis is a *working thesis*; it may change once you have decided what points you want to make. If you are having difficulty finding a thesis, write out the main idea of what you want to explore and then write out your points and your support for those points. Next, determine how all of your points relate to each other. What is the controlling idea? That controlling idea can become your thesis.

Main points I want to make in this paper (These are your topic/focus sentences):

#1

#2

#3

#4: NOTICE I give you room for 4 points. Please think you need at least 4 points. 3 is just not enough!

Put any more on a separate sheet of paper...

The following elements do NOT necessarily have to come in the order they are listed. Just remember, they are the elements of argumentative writing, and they should be somewhere in the paragraphs.

Main point #1: (Topic/Focus Sentence—a point in your argument. Remember, this does NOT have to be the first sentence. However, your paragraph’s focus really does need to be clear for the reader, wherever you put it and however you word it. Remember, if you have a focus too late in a paragraph of support, the reader might not understand what it is the paragraph is proving.)

Sentence(s) to introduce the evidence for this paragraph (quote/paraphrase):

Evidence/example that supports this point (quote/paraphrase). If you have more than one example for the paragraph, note any of those here:

Explain how the main point/focus of this paragraph is supported by the evidence/example(s):

How does this point relate to/prove/support the overall argument (thesis)?

How is the point in this paragraph connected to the next point (paragraph)? You may add the connection (a transition) here or at the beginning of the following paragraph.

Main point #2: (Topic/Focus Sentence)

Sentence(s) to introduce the evidence for this paragraph (quote/paraphrase):

Evidence/example that supports this point (quote/paraphrase). If you have more than one example for the paragraph, note any of those here:

Explain how the main point/focus of this paragraph is supported by the evidence/example(s):

How does this point relate to/prove/support the overall argument (thesis)?

How is the point in this paragraph connected to the next point (paragraph)? You may add the connection (a transition) here or at the beginning of the following paragraph.

Main point # 3: (Topic/Focus Sentence)

Sentence(s) to introduce the evidence for this paragraph (quote/paraphrase):

Evidence/example that supports this point (quote/paraphrase). If you have more than one example for the paragraph, note any of those here:

Explain how the main point/focus of this paragraph is supported by the evidence/example(s):

How does this point relate to/prove/support the overall argument (thesis)?

How is the point in this paragraph connected to the next point (paragraph)? You may add the connection (a transition) here or at the beginning of the following paragraph.

Main point # 4: (Topic/Focus Sentence)

Sentence(s) to introduce the evidence for this paragraph (quote/paraphrase):

Evidence/example that supports this point (quote/paraphrase). If you have more than one example for the paragraph, note any of those here:

Explain how the main point/focus of this paragraph is supported by the evidence/example(s):

How does this point relate to/prove/support the overall argument (thesis)?

How is the point in this paragraph connected to the next point (paragraph)? You may add the connection (a transition) here or at the beginning of the following paragraph.

(and so on . . .)

Conclusion: Without looking back at your original thesis statement, re-state it now:

Build a conclusion that offers closure for your reader so that he/she can see how your paper's points make sense, work together, and are important.