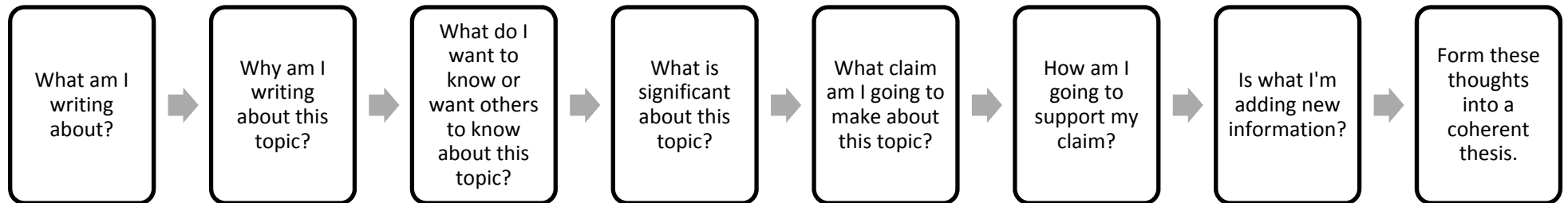


How do I write a thesis statement?

Follow the questions on this flowchart to help you organize your thoughts and generate ideas for creating a thesis. Think about each question, because they are all important parts of your thesis. Please see examples on the other side for ideas. You can also use this flowchart to help you figure what you should include in your introduction!



Think about the topic you are writing about. Even if you are assigned a specific topic for your class, try to think about what unique properties the topic has that might be interesting to you.

Why did you pick the topic?

If this specific topic doesn't interest you particularly, what might interest others in it? Can you relate to or understand why they would be interested in it?

If you're stuck, go through the flow chart with multiple topics and see which topic comes naturally or seems the most compelling to you.

These two questions should be answered by using the unique properties about your topic that interest you. Chances are, what you want to know about the topic – someone else wants to know, too.

The key to these questions is using ideas that genuinely intrigue you. Don't write what you think your professor wants to hear, but remember to keep the assignment guidelines in mind. You are the one that has to spend time researching the topic, so you should pick a topic you like so that you don't want to cry while you are working on your assignment.

Here is your chance to make your mark! Step out on a limb and make a claim that will interest your readers. Make a claim based off of what you think; you can always change it if you are having troubles finding sources.

Remember you can ALWAYS change your thesis. If you start writing your paper and realize that you are not supporting the claim you said you were going to – don't change three pages of what you have written, change your thesis. It is much easier to change one sentence than to change an elaborate argument you have written.

Why is it important that what you're adding is new information? You not only want to make the paper interesting to your audience (your professor), but it will also make the paper interesting to you.

One reason writing papers can be boring is because you are repeating what other sources have said. If you try to find a unique perspective on your topic, writing the paper will become that much more interesting – and if you're interested it comes across in your writing (which I don't have to tell you could lead to a better grade!).

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