



TESTING YOUR THESIS

Top 5 Thesis Things to Remember

1. *It's a roadmap.* What is going to be shown to the reader? A strong thesis will help you decide what to include. As you work, ask yourself: how does this connect to the thesis?
2. *Make an argument.* Take a side and try to convince someone to believe it.
3. *Answer: so what?* Why should the reader care about your topic? What did it impact or change? We all know Susan B. Anthony fought for women's suffrage, but why should we care, even today?
4. *Bring in the theme.* Readers should be able to pick out all parts of the theme, so be sure to include theme language!
5. *Be patient.* A thesis takes time. There will be multiple drafts, so don't get discouraged. The more drafts, the closer you are to a fantastic thesis!

Test your thesis by filling in the following chart. History is not black and white — no matter what your topic, you can bet there will be someone with a different view. Why is your argument stronger? How will you reconcile their evidence with your own?

➤ **The key is to test and/or strengthen your argument by thinking about what an opposing opinion might be.**

- ⇒ Consider the strength of each argument. Do you need more evidence to support your thesis statement?
- ⇒ How will you deal with evidence that supports another argument?

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| My Argument: | Opposing Argument: |
| Evidence that supports my argument: | Evidence that supports the opposing argument? |
| Which argument is strongest? Why? | |
| How can I strengthen my argument? What additional evidence do I need? | |