

Develop a Working Thesis

(SO FAR I've thought about my purpose, audience, and topic...)

Not sure what to say about the topic?
START HERE.

Got something to say about the topic?
START HERE.

THINK
about my personal connection to the topic.

WHAT INTERESTS me about it?

WHAT POINT do I want to make?

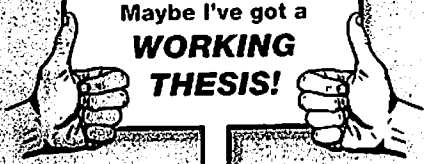


WHAT do I know about my topic?

WHAT do I need to find out?

Can I write a sentence that **DESCRIBES** my topic and comments on it?

Maybe I've got a **WORKING THESIS!**



WHAT is the most important thing to tell my audience?

OKAY! I CAN COMMENT ON MY TOPIC.

If I'm just **STATING FACTS**, I don't have a thesis yet.

TEST THE SENTENCE.

Will it **GRAB** my audience's attention?

A **VAGUE** thesis is a boring thesis.

...stay focused...

An **OBVIOUS** thesis is a boring thesis, too.



Can I cover this topic in the **TIME** and **SPACE** I have, or would I have to write a book?

REWRITE until I have a sentence to work with.



I'VE MADE A COMMENT ON MY TOPIC!

IT'S INTERESTING, SPECIFIC, AND MANAGEABLE!

I HAVE A WORKING THESIS!

(and I can refine it—or change it—as I go)

Work with Peer Reviewers



START
to work with others on a **DRAFT.**



WHAT SHOULD WE FOCUS ON?
Big picture, development, sentence-level questions?

IT DOESN'T MATTER if this writer has more or less experience than I do—we can still help each other...

REVIEWERS

WRITERS

1 READ CAREFULLY.

What should I look at **FIRST**? (ASK if I'm not sure....)

What's the draft doing? Do I get the **MAIN POINTS**?

Is the writer on the **RIGHT TRACK**?



1 GUIDE MY READERS.

What **PROBLEMS** do I see in this draft?

TELL readers what I want them to do first.

ASK QUESTIONS

Does this **WORK**? What's wrong here?



2 MARK UP THE WRITING.
Compliment what's good. Criticize constructively.

BE HELPFUL, NOT HARSH!

Should I **ASK** more questions?

Are my markings **CLEAR**?

2 ACCEPT HELP.
Remember that all writing can be improved—**EVEN MINE!**



3 CONFIRM SUGGESTIONS.

Do I **UNDERSTAND** what my **REVIEWERS** think?

If the comments don't seem helpful, ask for better ones....

Have I gotten **FEEDBACK** on what to do next?

3 SUGGEST NEXT STEPS.
What changes could make the next draft stronger? Be specific....

I'M ASKING GOOD QUESTIONS...

I'M HELPING OTHER WRITERS THINK...

I KNOW WHERE THIS WRITING SHOULD GO FROM HERE!

Revise with Reviewer Comments

START HERE
if the comment is
CONFUSING

How does this
APPLY to what
I wrote?

What
should I
ASK the
person who
made the
comment?

I'LL LOOK UP
KEYWORDS
IN MY BOOK



If I'm still **STUCK**,
I can stop by the
WRITING CENTER....

OKAY!
I THINK I'VE GOT IT NOW

GET READY TO REVISE

Based on my most
useful comments,
WHAT'S MY GOAL
for this revision?



**WHAT'S THE MOST
IMPORTANT THING I CAN DO
TO IMPROVE THIS WRITING IN THE TIME I HAVE?**

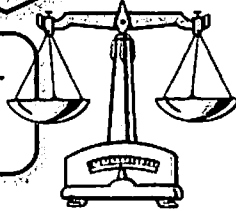
I'VE
**REVIEWED THE
COMMENTS**

I'VE
**THOUGHT ABOUT
CHANGES**

I CAN MAKE
**THIS WRITING
BETTER!**

START HERE
if the meaning is
CLEAR

How
IMPORTANT
is this
suggestion?



**DO OTHER READERS SAY
THE SAME THING?**

Did the
READER
misunderstand
me?

What changes
will **CLARIFY**
my writing?

What will happen if I **DON'T**
make this change?

How should I **RESPOND?**

**REPEAT UNTIL ALL
COMMENTS ARE
CONSIDERED....**

**HOW MUCH REVISION DO I
NEED? A FEW TWEAKS, A WHOLE NEW
TEXT, OR SOMETHING IN BETWEEN?**

I don't want to **START
AGAIN**, but sometimes that's
the way it goes....

Read Critically

START
with a
PREVIEW.

What
does the
TITLE
tell me?

WHO'S THIS AUTHOR, ANYWAY?

Think about context:
WHEN, WHERE, and HOW
was this first published?

Have I got it?
TELL A FRIEND
in my own
words.

**SUMMARIZE
THE TEXT.**

**ANALYZE
the
text.**

Have I gotten
what I
expected out of
this text?

What do
I **LIKE** most?

What's assumed? Do the assumptions make sense?

Was the text's
PURPOSE
accomplished?

Do the parts **WORK**
together?

WHAT ELSE
do I need to
KNOW?

**READ
CAREFULLY.**

The
MAIN
idea
is....

Supporting
IDEAS
are....



WHERE did
this information come from?

Look up anything that's
CONFUSING

Who's the
AUDIENCE
supposed to be?
Am I part of it?

**What purpose does
this text serve?**

REREAD and CHECK UNDERSTANDING.

I'VE KEPT
**AN OPEN
MIND....**

I'VE READ
CAREFULLY....

I'VE ASKED
QUESTIONS....

I HAVE A **CRITICAL
PERSPECTIVE ON
THIS TEXT!**