

# Developing a Thesis

WORKING THESIS TO FINAL THESIS

## 1 Collect and organize evidence & ideas

Look for relationships between sources, i.e. surprising comparisons or contrasts, & think about why these relationships are important.

## 2 Choose a main idea that you can defend

Present a basic argument (not a fact) you can support & defend with evidence. This thesis is flexible - as your ideas develop, change your working thesis with them to reflect your paper.

## 4 Update & finalize thesis

Read through your draft; having a friend read it may help. It's likely that your final thesis will emerge here as your broad ideas get at a more specific argument supported by your evidence.

If not, don't panic. Continue to edit your thesis, seeking to 1. answer the prompt, 2. take a clear stance, & 3. be specific.



## 3 Write the first draft of your paper

Using your working thesis and broad points of evidence to guide you, draft the paper. While doing so, reference your working thesis and adjust it as needed - if it needs a complete overhaul, that's okay!