

**ESSAY TOPICS:**

If an essay topic is provided, awesome – you can go right to generating a thesis. However, if you are responsible for developing your own topic, there’s some though involved in the process. Here’s a way to help narrow the process down:

SOURCE OF IDEAS	CONNECTING	REFLECTING
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current Events</li> <li>• Social Issues</li> <li>• Experiences</li> <li>• Movies, Songs, Novels</li> <li>• Relationships</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How does this make me feel?</li> <li>• What does this remind me of?</li> <li>• How are these things alike?</li> <li>• How does my experience relate to this?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why does this matter to me?</li> <li>• Why did I respond to this the way that I did?</li> <li>• Why would this matter to other people?</li> </ul>

**CONSIDER PURPOSE & AUDIENCE**

**A strong essay topic is:**

- Something you are passionate about – or at the very least – interested in
- Something you’re already knowledgeable about or that you can research in a reasonable amount of time
- Narrow enough to address adequately in an essay
- Broad enough that you can write an entire essay on it

**THESIS STATEMENTS:**

Once your topic is narrowed down, you need a thesis statement. Will it be **implicit** or **explicit**? It’s always good idea to consider your thesis as it is the heart of your essay.

STRONG THESIS STATEMENTS:	WEAK THESIS STATEMENTS:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take a stand or make a claim that could be reasonably disputed</li> <li>• Has one main idea expressed clearly and precisely</li> <li>• Clearly indicates the evidence the essay will provide to support it</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ask a question</li> <li>• Simply state a fact</li> <li>• Just describe your subject or the essay’s intention</li> <li>• Don’t have a “so what” connection</li> </ul>

**EXAMPLES OF THESIS STATEMENTS:**

ORIGINAL THESIS STATEMENT	WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?	STRONGER THESIS STATEMENT
In this essay I will write about carbon emissions.		
Smartphones are bad for many reasons.		
From cartoons in the morning to adventure shows at night, there is too much violence on television.		