

CGW4U ISU Stage 2 -
Thesis Development and Essay Outline

Stage 2 Due Date: _____

Conference Date: _____

A. THESIS DEFINITION:

- Your thesis is a specific statement that summarizes the point of view you will take in your research paper.

B. STEPS IN DEVELOPING A THESIS STATEMENT:

- Begin with a general topic or subject you wish to research.
- Develop a point of view or perspective your research will follow.
- Your thesis should be a statement (not a question).
 - i. gather information from a wide variety of sources
 - ii. look for a central idea or theme that recurs in your notes
 - iii. generate some opinions based on your notes
- Write your thesis statement in clear, concise language.

C. CHARACTERISTICS OF A SUCCESSFUL THESIS STATEMENT:

- It determines the scope of what you will cover in the paper.
- It is specific. Anyone reading the statement should know what the paper is about.
- It unifies the ideas in the paper. It must be written first, before you begin the outline and before you write the paper itself.
- It provides a common element that your entire paper should connect to.

D. EXAMPLE:

- **Broad Topic:** Child Soldiers
- **Sub-Topic:** The Impact of Tamil Tiger Child Soldiers on Sri Lanka's Future
- **Thesis:** The high number of children forced to become child soldiers in Sri Lanka has had a negative impact on the potential future adult population of Sri Lankan society in terms of life expectancy, literacy rate and substance abuse, which will in turn erode a cultural minority striving for recognition of a unique cultural status and independence.

E. ARGUMENTS: Are the 3 topics (body paragraphs) that will help to prove your thesis. The 3 topics will provide evidence and arguments using valid and properly sourced academic research that will support your thesis.

Creating your Thesis and Essay Outline

My Topic:	
Thesis Statement:	
Explanation of Thesis:	
Essay Outline	
Argument / Body Paragraph #1:	
How Does this Relate to My Thesis?	
Argument / Body Paragraph #2:	
How Does this Relate to My Thesis?	
Argument / Body Paragraph #3:	
How Does this Relate to My Thesis?	

Conference Notes: