

# HOW TO WRITE A DEFENSIBLE THESIS

*CRAFTING A DEFENSIBLE THESIS OrHow the BLEEP am I going to write this BLEEPIN' essay?.*

As you design the building you construct a scale model so that you and your clients can see what the finished building will look like. In the other example, you will need to think about why the United Nations is not capable of preventing war. You might try to make a point, and fail. Having to develop a written thesis statement along with your essay also helps you to discover problems with your essay and solve them. It's the false expectation that causes the problem. So what is a thesis statement? Most essays don't completely succeed for all readers. It is the road map to the argument you will subsequently develop in your paper. In providing the reader with these important cues, transitions help readers understand the logic of how your ideas fit together. Of course, to "develop" a thesis statement doesn't necessarily require writing it down on a piece of paper and handing it in with your essay. You want your essay to come to a point, to have a clear thesis that every reader will understand. Brynes of Leonardtown High School. Deciding on a thesis does not come first. But as you start working with actual thesis statement, you will have to look at the meaning of the thesis, the ideas it contains, and ask whether what your thesis says expresses the right content, the meaning you want the essay to have. This brings us to the second question. Maybe you decide that both sides fought for moral reasons, and that they just focused on different moral issues. You persuade your roommate to clean up, your parents to let you borrow the car, your friend to vote for your favorite candidate or policy. It is usually better to consider one or two serious counterarguments in some depth, rather than to give a long but superficial list of many different counterarguments and replies. When I talk about "having a thesis," I don't mean that you have to have the thesis before writing the essay. This suggestion is about the wording of your thesis, not your attitude. You are asked to convince your reader of your point of view. Your job is to show your reader that your thesis is true. So if your thesis statement is worded negatively, you probably haven't said what you need to say yet. Will you reject the counterargument and explain why it is mistaken? Don't try to think of the one perfect topic for an essay; there probably isn't one. Even when we think we know exactly what we want to say, we often discover when we start to write it down that it isn't all there.