

Construction of a Thesis Based on Evidence

OR HOW TO DEVELOP A LIMITED SUBJECT, CHANNEL IT INTO A THESIS, AN OUTLINE, AND AN INTRO ¶.

Broad topic:	Music >	Latin Music >	Latin Jazz >	Latin Dance
still too broad topic:	Salsa Music			
still too broad topic:	Salsa Music Development in Puerto Rico			
Limited subject	Salsa Music Development in Puerto Rico during the 1970's			

KEY WORDS:

(These words came from listing technique, reading an entry in Wikipedia, and CD linear notes, Rolling Stone.)

Salsa, history, music, Puerto Rico, culture, Tito Puente, Celia Cruz, Hector Lavoe, Cuba, Latin Jazz, dance

PRELIMINARY OUTLINE FOR WORKING OPENING PARAGRAPH: MAPPING OF AN IDEA

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| I. Music defines the human experience. | (BROAD SUBJ) |
| A. No matter the culture | ↓ |
| B. Music offers sense of history, identity | |
| C. Development of a people, race | |
| D. Diverse cultures, diverse music | |
| E. Types of Latina Musica as example, regionalized music | |
| F. Salsa in particular | |
| G. Salsa from Puerto Rico popular even in U.S. | |

Notice how the key words appear in the outline; your opening paragraph should include these as well.

Notice how the outline also shows the process of moving from the broad to limited subject.

- H. Salsa dance music rose to popularity in the U.S.
during the 70's in NYC because why? (¶ CONCLUSION and THESIS)

Answering the “WHY” question results in the thesis statement:

Salsa dance music rose to popularity in the N.Y.C. during the 1970’s because it offered a strong sense definition of the Hispanic experience to Latino residents.

Notice how in addition to his outline following his transformation of his broad subject to his limited subject, the outline moves from limited subject to a finalized thesis.

Finally, he wrote the following paragraph based on the outline:

Music defines the human experience. No matter the culture, music offers the listener a sense of history and identity. It shows the development of a race of people through the diversity of the people. Latin Music itself displays a wide collection of different styles and rhythms. Each style comes from a different region of the Caribbean or Latin America. In particular, Salsa has a rich history of regional influences. Since its early beginnings in the 1970’s, Salsa remains a popular music choice today, even in the U.S., because it offers a strong sense of definition for the Hispanic experience for Latino residents.

Notice the last sentence, acting as the thesis, sums up the intro paragraph and supports the opening topic sentence.