

Generating a Thesis Statement



Thesis Statement

- As the topic sentence must be the unifying force in the paragraph the thesis is the unifying force in the essay.

- All essays that involve the development of an argument require a thesis.

While the topic is your limited subject, the thesis defines your position on that subject. Your essay will take a position and will provide convincing evidence to support that view.

- A working thesis directs your thoughts and research; of course your thesis may change as your reading and writing progresses and you begin to incorporate new information.

- **Your thesis states a fact about your topic and your point of view on the topic.**

Cable television has not delivered on its promise to provide an alternative solution to network programming.

Moving from Broad to Limited Subject

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

Salsa

history

music

Puerto Rico

Cuba

culture


Tito Puente, Celia Cruz, Hector Lavoe,

Latin Jazz

dance, etc.

Crafting an Introduction

PRELIMINARY OUTLINE FOR WORKING OPENING PARAGRAPH: MAPPING OF AN IDEA

- I. Music defines the human experience. (BROAD SUBJECT)
 - 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. (LIMITED SUBJECT)
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**Notice how the key words appear in the outline; your opening paragraph should include these.*

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

Thesis and Introduction Paragraph

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 introduction paragraph and supports the opening topic sentence.