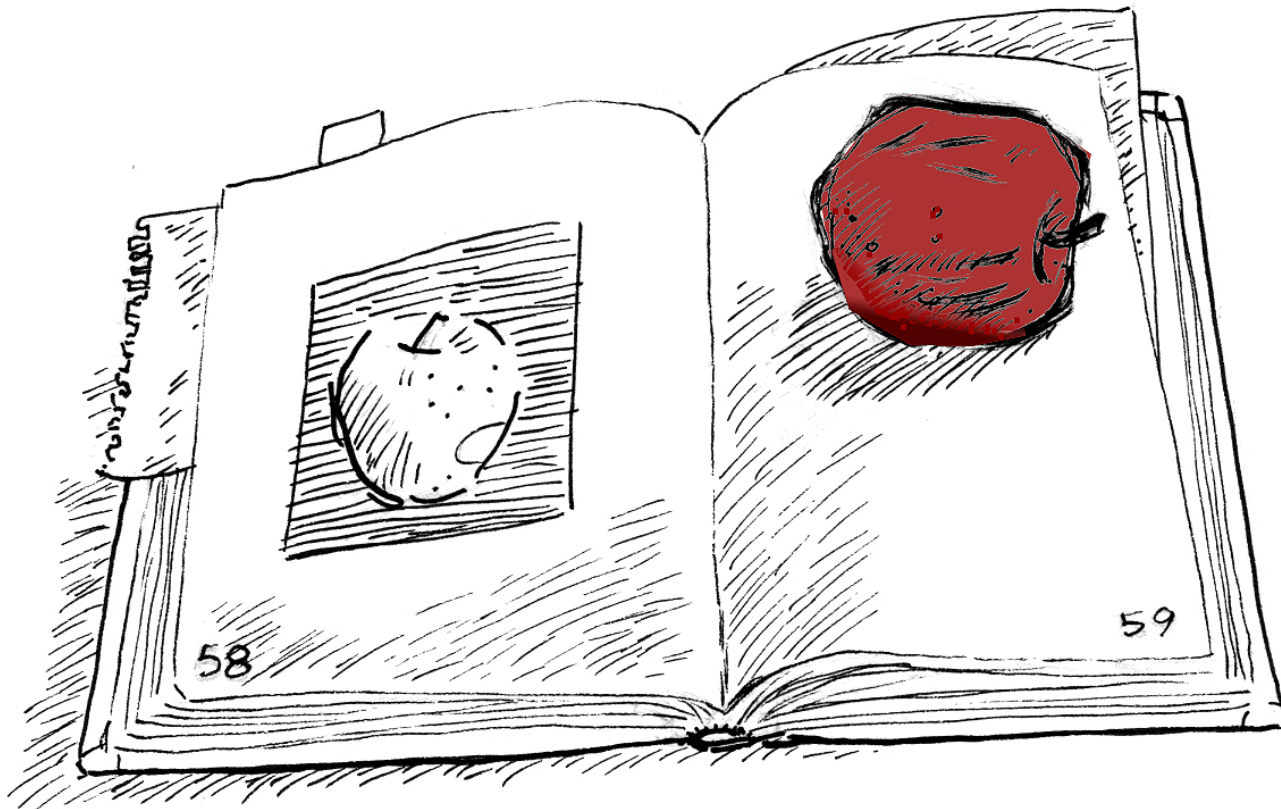


# Generating a Thesis Statement

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# *Thesis Statement*

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- 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*

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**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*

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Salsa

history

music

Puerto Rico

Cuba

culture

Tito Puente, Celia Cruz, Hector Lavoe,


Latin Jazz

dance, etc.

# Crafting an Introduction

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## 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)
- 

*\*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*

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*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.*