

Thesis-Driving Paper

- A thesis-driven paper makes an arguable claim and defends it. Do not confuse a research paper with a report: you need to offer a thesis about your topic and then present evidence and analysis that provides support and explanation.



Thesis Construction

- Thesis statement tells your reader what to expect
- It is restricted, precisely worded declarative sentence that states the purpose of your essay, the point you are trying to make



Thesis Structure

WHAT + **HOW** + **SO WHAT**

HOW + **WHAT** + **SO WHAT**

- WHAT**: the topic (*addressing the question*)
- HOW**: Your argument
- SO WHAT**: the *significance* of your idea in terms of understanding the history/narrative as a whole, *how your argument impacts something* (answers the extremely important “so what?” question).



The sinking of the Titanic in 1912 can be attributed to Captain Edward Smith's poor handling of media pressure, mismanagement of his crew, and his personal decision to push the ship too fast.



Captain Edward Smith is responsible for the sinking of the Titanic in 1912 due to his poor management of the crew, his decision to push the ship too fast, and the way he dealt with media pressure.



Did Jackie Kennedy have a lasting impact on the role of the first family?

As a cultural icon, Jacqueline Kennedy redefined the traditional yet passive role of First Lady by working to restore the White House mansion and allowing the family to take precedence over pressing political issues.



The Bad

- Too broad

Abrahamic religions had a major impact on East African culture and society, which lead to a unique culture in some places.



The Bad

- Too specific

The pentathlon event was one of the original events from the Ancient Olympics and remains as a part of the Modern Olympics representing, as it has changed over time, the change in what society thinks is most important in athletics.



The Bad

- Too obvious

European imperialism was extremely violent and destructive to the people of the Congo and lead to the death of thousands of Congolese.



The Ugly: Un-provable

The bombing of Pearl Harbor indirectly caused the Cold War because it drew America into WWII, creating two superpowers that split Europe between two new factions.



The Good

- Specific and provable

As a cultural icon, Jacqueline Kennedy redefined the traditional public yet passive role of First Lady by working to restore the White House mansion and allowing the family to take precedence over pressing political issues.



The Good

- The sinking of the Titanic in 1912 can be attributed to Captain Edward Smith's poor handling of media pressure, mismanagement of his crew, and his personal decision to push the ship too fast.



Things to avoid:

- Topics very hard to argue
 - i.e. people's attitudes changing, hypotheticals, conspiracy theories etc.
- If you can plug in another topic into your thesis and it still makes sense, it's too broad

