

THESIS MACHINE

(Adapted from Sandra Ross, Writing 120 Professor, University of Southern California)

Step 1: TOPIC (state the topic under consideration)

- Ex: School uniforms
- Ex: The legal drinking age

Your topic:

Step 2: ISSUE (state the issue in the form of a debating proposition)

- Ex: Resolved: School uniforms should not be instituted.
- Ex: Resolved: The minimum legal drinking age should be lowered to 18.

Your issue:

Step 3: POSITION + RATIONALE (add because clause)

- Ex: School uniforms should not be instituted because they create financial hardship for many families.
- Ex: The minimum legal drinking age should be lowered to 18 because it will save lives.

Your position and rationale:

Step 4: QUALIFY (add although clause)

- Ex: Although school uniforms can reduce bullying, they create financial hardship for many families because of the cost.
- Ex: Although some people will always abuse alcohol, the minimum legal drinking age should be lowered to 18 because it prevent binge drinking.

Your qualification:

Step 5: REVISE AND POLISH (rephrase and eliminate unnecessary words)

- Ex: While a uniform policy can reduce bullying, mandatory school uniforms create extreme financial hardship for many families.
- Ex: Some people will always abuse alcohol; however, the minimum legal drinking age should be lowered to 18 because it prevents binge drinking.

Your revised and polished thesis statement: