Not everyone’s thesis is perfect the first time around. As you read and/or research, your focus may shift, either slightly or dramatically. The tips listed below will help you narrow your focus.

Your thesis has 3 parts:

1. The “**what**” that’s being discussed.
2. An **active verb** that tells us you’re about to analyze something.
3. The **idea** or concept at play (as ID’d through concepts and patterns observed in the text).

**What** + *active verb* + idea/concept = A Working Thesis

Active Verbs That Get Us Analyzing:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Conveys | Portrays | Creates | Represents |
| Results in | Indicates | Demonstrates | Means |
| Symbolizes | Suggests | Supposes | Analyzes |
| Insinuates | Proves | Opines | Mirrors |

Example:

In *Waiting*, the nameless character is in a **monotonous existence** *insinuating* that life goes on without purpose.

* **What = monotonous existence**
* *Active Verb = insinuating*
* Idea = life goes on without purpose

Example:

In the Grimm’s *Snow White*, **patriarchal forces** dominate the actions of both Snow White and the Queen *resulting in* the female character’s inability to achieve “full subjectivity” in their society.

* **What = patriarchal forces**
* *Active Verb = resulting in*
* Idea = inability to achieve “full subjectivity”

**Write your own thesis:**

WHAT are you discussing? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Pick a verb that best conveys what you’re about to write about. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What’s the idea shown in this text? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Now, put them all together. Write your thesis below.