**Moving from Subject to Thesis Statement**

**Terminology**

 Subject area: A large category where your topic is located

 Ex. Subject = Civil liberties

 Topic: The definitive issue the paper deals with

 Ex. Topic = 1960’s Civil Rights Movement

 Thesis: An assertion of the topic

 Ex. Without Martin Luther King Jr., the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960’s would have been unsuccessful.

**Subject to Topic**

 ♠ Avoid broad topics

 Topic too large for specific thesis statement

 Subject = Women, Topic = Women in history

 Avoid topics that are not arguable

 Subject = Toni Morrison, Topic = Biography

 Avoid topics that are too complex for your background

 Subject = Linguistics, Topic = OE Northumbrian dialects

 **Side Note About Topics:** Most students find they lack paper/word length because they have failed to focus their research**.** Most students find it easy to become the “expert” when they narrow a topic so it is manageable

**What is a thesis statement?**

 It is the central message of the essay

 It’s the essay’s main idea

 States the essay’s topic

 It prepares the readers

 States the essay’s purpose

 Indicates the focus

**A good thesis statement includes:**

 Subject that two people would disagree

 Corresponds clearly with the assignment

 Expresses one main idea

 Asserts your conclusions about the subject

**Formulating a thesis statement:**

 Step 1: What do you notice?

 Step 2: What 3 details are the most interesting?

 Step 3: Why are they the 3 most interesting details?

**Having Trouble?**

 Turn your topic into a question (or multiple questions).

 The answer to the question is the thesis statement for the essay.

 *Ex.* ***Q:*** *“What are the potential benefits of using computers in a fourth-grade class?”*  ***A:*** *“The potential benefits of using computers in a fourth-grade class are . . . .”*

***OR***

 ***A:*** *“Using computers in a fourth-grade class promises to improve . . . “*

**Test Your Question**

 Determine as many questions as possible

 No question is too broad or narrow in the early stages

 Treat each question as a “possibility”

 Test each question with these others:

 Is the question or answer plausible enough to be made convincing?

 Is the question sufficiently challenging?

 Is the question within your reach, given the limitations on time, your access to pertinent information, and the length of the assignment?

 Do not forget Who, What, When, Where, and Why if you are stuck

**An example: Start to Finish Subject and Topics**

 **Subject:** College Education

 **Topics:** upward mobility, first-generation, consumerism, price of books, tuition costs, overall college costs, availability of financial aid, technology, preparedness

 *Choose preparedness*

**Questions and Answers**

 Does high school adequately prepare students for college?

 Answer: No, high school does not adequately prepare students for college.

 What do students need to be prepared for college?

 Answer: High school students need to be made aware of the demands required to receive a college education.

 What consequences result from under prepared students?

 Answer: Under prepared college students usually do not succeed in college, some even fail out. **Thesis statements:**

 High schools fail to prepare students for entrance into college, therefore, colleges should offer more remedial courses.

 The lack of prepared freshman entering American universities indicates a need for high school teachers and counselors to reiterate the rigors of college curricula.

 High schools fail to prepare students for entrance into college, therefore, many students fail to finish.

**All together now....**

 **Q:** Does high school adequately prepare students for college?

 **A:** No, high school does not adequately prepare students for college.

 **T:** High schools fail to prepare students for entrance into college; therefore, colleges should offer more remedial courses.

 **Q:** What do students need to be prepared for college?

 **A:** High school students need to be made aware of the demands required to receive a college education.

 **T:** The lack of prepared freshman entering American universities indicates a need for high school teachers and counselors to reiterate the rigors of college curricula.

 **Q:** What consequences result from under prepared students?

 **A:** Under prepared college students usually do not succeed in college, some even fail out.  **T:** High schools fail to prepare students for entrance into college, therefore, many students fail to finish.

 **A strong thesis takes some sort of stand.**

 **A strong thesis justifies discussion.**

 **A strong thesis expresses one main idea.**

 **A strong thesis is specific.**

 Ex. Hunger persists in Appalachia because jobs are scarce and farming in the infertile soil is rarely profitable.

**Now you try it:**

Subject: Video game exposure

Topic: Anger, communication, observational learning, vision problems, sleep deprivation, increased brain matter, creativity, poor mental health, social disconnection.

Question #1: When an individual plays video games for too long, can they have increased brain matter that over-stimulates themselves?

Answer #1: Yes, playing games for more than an hour can have an unhealthy effect on one's anger, mental health, and vision problems.

Thesis #1: Can playing video games have a negative effect on a person's body and mind?

Question #2: If playing video games has negative effects, what are the positives?

Answer #2: A person playing video games can help them have better communication, and have a long attention span. Also depending on the game they play, a person will have to use strategies to win which can boost someone's iq.

Thesis #2: Playing video games has a negative effect on a person, but they’re are some positives and benefits.

Question #3: When playing video games, how can it affect a person physically?

Answer #3: It can affect them by gaining weight, and also gaining poor vision.

Thesis #3: Can video games affect a person's physical looks and appearance?

Question #4: If playing these video games has pros and cons, why do people play them?

Answer #4: People usually play video games to relax and unwind and to get away from the world. Some people even play video games as a job.

Thesis #4: Why do people play video games?

Which thesis statement is the one that you will use for this essay?

Now, identify the five reasons you have for making the thesis statement. Remember above when it asked you to find the three most interesting details?? That should lead you to the focus for each paragraph and to your topic sentences. Take the five reasons you have for making the thesis statement that you did and turn them into topic sentences.

Topic sentence #1: A person playing video games can have a negative effect. When playing these games for hours on end, people will turn out angry and will be too on edge to even talk to people. It can make their mind go everywhere and they can end up depressed.

Topic sentence #2: As there are negatives to playing video games, they’re positives. For example, they can have good communication with a team, they can have an attention span for a long period of time and have a set goal they want to achieve in that game. Lastly, depending on what game a person plays, they will have to use strategies to win. This can help them with problem solving skills, and boost their iq.

Topic sentence #3: Video games can take a toll on one's mental health. It can also affect them physically. Why? When sitting in a dark room with a bunch of junk food a person can gain weight and produce acne. Looking at a screen for too long can affect your vision negatively. Ways to counter these problems is to maintain a healthy appetite as well as daily cleanings. With vision, people say to use a 20/20 rule. This means if you look at a screen for 20 minutes then you look away for 20 minutes.

Topic sentence #4: People play video games for many reasons. One can be after a long day of school or work, they would like to have fun, relax and unwind with their friends on the game. Most of the people that play games usually do that. Some individuals also play video games as a full time job and make good money off of them.

Topic sentence #5: