

Brainstorming a Topic and Thesis for a Persuasive Paper

You've been asked to write a persuasive essay. This means you'll be writing a paper that attempts to persuade someone to agree with you about a controversial topic. First you need to choose your topic. Start by brainstorming for topics that interest you:



Some topics that interest you may not have much to say about them that is controversial. For example, there is probably not much that is controversial about peanut butter sandwiches. But if you love dogs, you may be able to think up a few controversial ideas:

- * Dogs should not be bred to meet AKC show criteria.
- * Anyone who owns a dog has a responsibility to train it well.
- * Companion dogs should be allowed in all public places.

This is just a sampling. These are the sorts of ideas that will be your thesis statement.

Choose a few topics above (or even just one, if you're really sure that's what you want to write about), and brainstorm a few thesis statements. Remember that these statements must take a position on something. And it shouldn't be a position that is obvious (for example, "Eating vegetables is good for you"), but something that a reasonable person might disagree with.

Now choose one thesis statement for your paper. It may be that after doing some research you need to alter your thesis statement or even throw it away. That's why you have some alternatives as back-up.

My thesis statement for my persuasive essay:
