

Creating a Thesis Statement for a Research Report

You've been asked to write a research report on a foreign country. But you don't want to write just a general overview of the country. Instead, you want to focus on some aspect of the country.

Creating your thesis statement and brainstorming a list of questions will help guide your research. Otherwise you can get lost in a mass of information about your chosen country. First, brainstorm some ideas for a thesis statement, then choose one (or possibly have a first choice and a backup). Here are some aspects about countries to give you some idea:



- *ancient history/modern history
- *goods produced in the country
- *political system
- *geography
- *farming/food production

- *one crucial historical event
- *natural resources
- *major religions and beliefs
- *native arts and/or artists
- *languages

- *flora and fauna
- *interactions with a neighboring country
- *cuisine and traditional foods

Not all countries will have interesting aspects in all these areas. Your country might have some interesting topics I haven't listed here. List as many as seem interesting to you, then choose one or two to write a thesis statement about. For example:

- * **This crucial event in [my country's] history still has impact today.**
- * **[This country's] traditional food and cuisine has influenced the food I eat today.**
- * **There are many unique aspects of [this country's] flora and fauna, due to the fact that it is an island nation.**

In other words, you aren't just saying random things about the aspect you've chosen, but you have something particular you want to say about it.

Your turn! Brainstorm some aspects of your country that you could write about.

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