

# EN 102 Lesson Plan:

## Unit Three: The Researched Essay

### DEVELOPING YOUR THESIS

#### Materials used

Post-it notes, pens, dry-erase markers

#### Objectives

1. To identify and compose as a group thesis statements that do not meet the qualities of an effective thesis statement
2. To communicate to an audience the specific, arguable, and relevant qualities of their thesis statement

#### Description of activities

##### Mini-lecture and whole-class discussion (<10 minutes)

1. Provide a short description of the qualities of a strong thesis
2. Examine and discuss how and why these thesis sentences are missing these qualities.

##### Examples (On conservation)

1. Non-specific: Ocean trash is a huge problem for marine life.
2. Not arguable: The convenience of drinking straws for disabled people is more important than saving sea turtle lives.
3. Irrelevant: I visited a sea turtle protected habitat last year and learned a lot about how important sea turtles are to the ocean.

##### Prewriting (10-15 minutes)

Students will write three bad thesis statements about their own topics: non-specific, not arguable, irrelevant to the topic. When finished, students will stick their Post-it notes on the board under the quality it is missing.

##### Small-Group Discussion (15 minutes)

One student from each group of three should choose 3 Post-Its from the board, one from each quality, and bring back to their group. Students will co-compose new thesis statements on scratch paper, revising the thesis until it exemplifies all of the qualities recommended for an effective thesis statement. When the new thesis is refined to the group's satisfaction, then they should write each sentence on a new Post-It.

**Large-Group Discussion (5 minutes)**

When time has expired, the group will share their new revised theses and discuss how/why this sentence contains all of the qualities.

**Homework**

Draft a thesis statement about your own topic which meets all three criteria. Turn in via Blackboard by the start of the next class.