

ENGL210/CA - WEEK 4 - DAY 2


INTRODUCTION TO ESSAY WRITING

THE CARS MODEL

**CREATE A
RESEARCH SPACE**

THE CARS MODEL HAS 3 DISTINCT RHETORICAL MOVES

1. Establish a research territory
2. Establish a niche
3. Occupy the niche



yes

maybe

no

ACADEMIC WRITING = NUANCE

- ▶ The idea of a topic with multiple interpretations often conjures up images of competing schools of thought and of subjects that are strikingly "controversial" or that have pro-con, black-white interpretations. It is true that there are competing schools of thought in almost every discipline, and some subjects are controversial. But most are not.



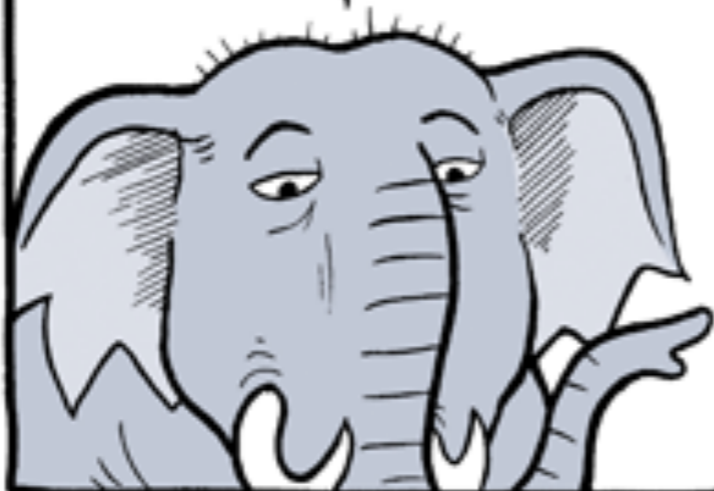
SHADES OF GREY

- ▶ To interpret is to explain meaning and significance; typically developing an interpretation means imposing order, clarifying distinctions, and defining concepts, not engaging two diametrically opposed views.



If one "side" is saying this:

I THINK WE SHOULD
PUT ALL KITTENS IN
A BLENDER.



And the other "side" is saying
this:

NO. WE SHOULDN'T.
REALLY.



And you decide to split the
difference by saying this...

I THINK, THEREFORE,
THAT WE SHOULD PUT
HALF THE KITTENS IN
A BLENDER.



Congratulations! You're a
"sensible centrist"!

NOW EVERYONE WILL BE HAPPY!



YOU
SUCK.



HEGELIAN METHOD

SYNTHESIS

Thesis

+

Antithesis

=

Synthesis



HEGELIAN SYNTHESIS

The triad is usually described in the following way:

The thesis is an intellectual proposition.

The antithesis is simply the negation of the thesis, a reaction to the proposition.

The synthesis solves the conflict between the thesis and antithesis by reconciling their common truths and forming a new thesis, starting the process over.



THESIS: PEOPLE SHOULD STOP EATING MEAT

- 1. Meat-eating is an exploitation of animals, in which we are subjugating other beings for our own ends and causing them pain and suffering.**
 - Facts from research on factory farms go here**
- 2. Meat-eating is unhealthy.**
 - Facts from research on heart disease and cancer go here**
- 3. Meat-eating is damaging the environment.**
 - Facts from research on environmental effects go here**

ANTITHESIS: PEOPLE SHOULD EAT MEAT

- 1. Although we should not cause unnecessary suffering to animals, it is acceptable to use them for our own ends.**
 - Argument using one or more ethical theories goes here.**
- 2. Meat-eating is healthy.**
 - Facts from research on nutrients available from meat that are unavailable or difficult to obtain without meat goes here**
- 3. If we decide not to eat meat because it is exploiting animals, then we must not eat eggs or dairy products and must not use any other animal products or use animals for any testing, which is both impractical and not necessary ethically.**
 - Facts on range of animal products we use and benefits from testing on animal**

SYNTHESIS

- ▶ **People should eat meat if they choose, but it should be a small part of their diet and they should purchase meat from sources that use ethical and environmentally sustainable farming practices.**



THESIS STATEMENT

**LIMITED AND
DEBATABLE**

WEAK THESIS STATEMENTS

- 1. Make no claim**
- 2. Are obviously true or a statement of fact**
- 3. Restate conventional wisdom**
- 4. Offer personal conviction as the basis for the claim**
- 5. Make an overly broad claim.**



**YOU SHOULD FEEL
(SOMEWHAT) SCARED**

CHARACTERISTICS OF A GOOD THESIS STATEMENT

It makes a definite and limited assertion that needs to be explained and supported by further discussion:

This thesis statement is trite and irrelevant:

Shakespeare was the world's greatest playwright.

This one, on the other hand, is intriguing:

The success of the last scene in *Midsummer Night's Dream* comes from subtle linguistic and theatrical references to Elizabeth's position as queen.

CHARACTERISTICS OF A GOOD THESIS STATEMENT

2. It shows the emphasis and indicates the methodology of your argument:
emotional, vague:

This essay will show that the North American Free Trade agreement was a disaster for the Canadian furniture industry.

worth attention:

Neither neo-protectionism nor post-industrial theory explains the steep reversal of fortune for the Canadian furniture industry in the period 1988-1994. Data on productivity, profits, and employment, however, can be closely correlated with provisions of the North American Free Trade Agreement that took effect in the same period.

CHARACTERISTICS OF A GOOD THESIS STATEMENT

3. It shows awareness of difficulties and disagreements:

sweeping, vague:

Having an official policy on euthanasia just causes problems, as the Dutch example shows.

suitably complex:

Dutch laws on euthanasia have been rightly praised for their attention to the principles of self-determination. Recent cases, however, show that they have not been able to deal adequately with issues involving technological intervention of unconscious patients. Hamarckian strategies can solve at least the question of assignation of rights.

MYTHS ABOUT THE THESIS STATEMENT

- ▶ **Every paper needs a thesis statement**
- ▶ **A thesis statement must come at the end of the first paragraph.**
- ▶ **A thesis statement must be one sentence in length**
- ▶ **You can't start writing until you have a perfect thesis statement.**
- ▶ **A thesis statement must give three points of support.**

**GRAMMAR
MATTERS**

everyone needs an editor

good

IN-CLASS WRITING:

EDITING EXERCISE #3