**Five Steps to a Fantastic Thesis**

**STEP 1: Find a Topic**

Start off by choosing which subject you want to write your paper

about. Sometimes this will be assigned. Sometimes you will simply

have the text about which you are required to write. The key is determining which idea you will focus upon.

**STEP 2**: **Form a Purpose**

Once you decide *what* you will be writing about, you want to figure out *why* you are

writing. For example, will your essay seek to explain your topic? Will it make an argument based on something related to your topic? Essentially, are you writing a

persuasive paper, a research paper, or something else?

**STEP 3: Narrow your Scope**

At the beginning of the writing process, your topic and purpose are likely to be broad. As

you go deeper into your research, however, you will want to start making your topic and

purpose as specific as possible. This will help to make your essay more targeted and coherent, which will make it easier to organize and write.

**STEP 4: Establish a "Main Idea"/Thesis**

Develop the main idea of your paper, which is commonly referred to as the thesis. This is

what you will consistently be discussing and supporting throughout the bulk of your essay.

**STEP 5: Create a Thesis Statement**

Sum up your thesis in a single, clear sentence. You want your thesis statement to be

simple and straight-forward. Avoid being overly complicated or vague in your statement. Make sure, however, that your thesis takes a stance and clearly articulates where you will go for the remainder of your paper.

Once you have generated a thesis, check out our guidelines on "Weak Thesis Statements" to

make sure that your thesis does not fall into one of the common Weak Thesis traps!

If you need further assistance with this or any other writing issue, visit the Academic Writing Center. More information can be found at our website: uc.edu/awc.