Thesis Generator

Adapted from Patrick Rael's *Reading, Writing, and Researching for History*, Bowdoin College

If you are having trouble getting started on your thesis, it can help to envision your project as a conversation with your reader or viewer. Here are a few writing prompts to help you put on paper those aspects of your project that are most important to communicate.

(1) **Dear Reader: I want to convince you that. . . .** [Start a dialogue with your reader – what is the VERY MOST IMPORTANT thing you want them to learn from your project?]

Sample	Your Project Workspace
Dear Reader, I want to convince you that... ...new technology and scientific research revolutionized the meatpacking industry.	*Dear Reader, I want to convince you that...*

(2) **The main reasons why you should believe me are that. . . .** [Your *claims*, or the main points you will make to persuade your reader.]

Sample	Your Project Workspace
The main reasons you should believe me are... a) Conditions in meatpacking plants were difficult and dangerous, change was needed b) New technology transformed meatpacking plants c) Scientific research made meatpacking cleaner and improved food safety	*The main reasons you should believe me are...*

(3) **You should care about my thesis because. . . .** [What is the impact or change that occurred? Why is this significant? So what? Who cares?]

Sample	Your Project Workspace
You should care about my thesis because... ...these changes brought about safer working conditions, better wages, and cleaner food and communities.	*You should care about my thesis because...*

Now, take those ideas and write 1-2 sentences that make an argument.

Sample	Your Project Workspace: What is your preliminary thesis?
New technology and scientific research, coupled with government legislation, revolutionized the meatpacking industry by creating safer working conditions, better wages, and cleaner food and communities.	