

- **Thesis Development**

- First step in writing:

- Why?

- How to write a good thesis?

- Ex1

- Ex#2

- Ex#3

- Ex#4

- **Common errors in Writing a Thesis**

- Mistake #1: Announce the subject rather than state a true thesis idea

- Mistake #2: Write a thesis that is too broad

- Mistake #3 Write a thesis that is too narrow

- Mistake #4 Write a thesis containing more than one idea

## — Supporting Thesis with Specific Evidence

- Using an informal outline
- To draft:
- Ex.

## • **The Importance of Specific Details**

— Specific details = extremely important

— Common mistake = body paragraphs in essays contain only vague generalities

- From a student's paper: (copied word-for-word)

“The Doctors trial considered the fate of twenty-three German physicians who either participated in the Nazi program to euthanize people deemed “unworthy for life”. Hitler put his personal physician, Dr. Karl Brandt, to be in charge of the euthanasia program. Other doctors participated in conducting brutal experiments on concentration camp prisoners without their consent. Some of these experiments included subjecting the concentration camp prisoners to high-altitude experiments, freezing experiments, malaria experiments, mustard gas experiments, sulfanilamide experiments, bone, muscle, nerve regeneration and bone transplantation experiments, sea-water experiments, sterilization experiments, poison experiments, and incendiary bomb experiments. Most of these experiments were thought to vital to the German war machine, some others were just downright incredulous.”

- My re-write:

“ The Doctors Trial, which considered the fate of twenty three German physicians who participated in the Nazi euthanasia program, focused on some of the most brutal and horrific experiments conducting on concentration camp prisoners. Some, such as high altitude experiments conducted in pressure chambers that duplicated conditions up to 68,000 feet or when subjects drank chemically processed seawater to study various methods of making it drinkable, were justified later as being vital to the German war machine. Others, such as sterilizing healthy victims through repeated exposure to x-rays or secretly administering poison to test subjects through their food to investigate their effects, were just downright incredulous.”

#### — The Importance of Adequate Details

- Common & most serious problem
- To support each point, you must provide enough specific details
- Without sufficient support:
- Common mistake:
- **DO NOT FALL INTO THE THIS WORDINESS TRAP!**

#### — REMEMBER: Basic Structure of a Paragraph

- Paragraph consists of series of sentences related to a single idea that is identified in topic sentence
- Next comes supporting sentences

- Final sentence = functions as a conclusion

- Example:

The Islamofascists who destroyed the World Trade Center and killed almost 3,000 people in New York City on September 11, 2001, changed the way Americans view the world. In a few minutes, America became a different place to live – a place that is less safe and secure; more vulnerable. For the first time in the memory of anyone now alive, the mainland of America was successfully attacked, and Americans knew what it is like to be afraid. But the attack changed more than our own sense of security; it also changed the way we view the rest of the world and our relationships with other nations. In the future, we can no longer assume that what happens even in remote, poverty-stricken nations will not affect us. Further, we are no longer able to assume that because nations claim to be our allies that they are actually our friends. The terrorists not only changed our perception of ourselves but also made us more aware of the intentions of those around us.

- The structure of example is essentially a **model paragraph**