

- A **thesis** should be broad enough to include all the subtopics, information, or arguments in the essay. However, it should be narrow enough to allow you to deal with it thoroughly in the space available.
- Avoid using extreme terms such as all, never, and always in a thesis, unless you are sure you can back up what you are saying.

EXAMPLE: **Too broad:** All stress research today owes its existence to the work of Hans Selye.  
(It would be almost impossible to prove such a general statement.)

**Too narrow:** Hans Selye was the first to coin the term "stress" in relation to human beings.  
(This is an interesting fact, but it does not leave much room for the writer to expand upon it.)

**C. For each topic, underline the sentence that would make the best thesis for a short essay.**

1. Topic: Looking for a job
  - a) A successful job search requires both preparation and perseverance.
  - b) Looking for a job is hard work.
  - c) The unemployment rate for students is usually higher than the national average.
2. Topic: Canada's system of government
  - a) Canada was founded in 1867.
  - b) Canada has the best system of government in the world.
  - c) Canada is both a constitutional monarchy and a parliamentary democracy.

**D. Write a thesis that expresses the main idea behind each of the following groups of sentences.**

1. Topic sentence 1: Many video games require strong problem-solving skills.  
Topic sentence 2: Manipulating a controller or mouse can increase the user's manual dexterity.  
Topic sentence 3: Often, games can be played with a partner, and the numerous clubs for video-game enthusiasts give players more opportunities for social interaction.

Thesis: \_\_\_\_\_  
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2. Topic sentence 1: The family is the first agent of socialization that most of us encounter.  
Topic sentence 2: Schools have a strong socializing influence as well.  
Topic sentence 3: As we get older, our peers become increasingly important as agents of socialization.

Thesis: \_\_\_\_\_  
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