**How to draft an argumentative thesis**

[MUSIC PLAYING]

Have you ever listened to someone rambling and thought “Get to your point!”? In a research argument, your point is your position which you state early on in a thesis, one or two sentences laying out your main argument and setting a clear path for the entire essay.

Let's say you're researching the topic of product advertising in schools. You started off by introducing the debate, and now you want to try drafting your thesis. But get this: A thesis is not a question and a thesis is not an interesting fact. Your thesis is your position, your main argument in a nutshell.

Here's how to write a good one. Start with the question or problem. Then draft a tentative thesis, your simplest answer or solution to the question or problem. This gives you a place to start. Now you've got to test your thesis by asking if it is debatable and specific. If you can imagine another side to your argument, it's debatable. Could someone argue that advertising in schools is beneficial for kids? Definitely. But does your tentative thesis leave a reader with unanswered questions? If so, it isn't clear or specific enough. You've got to revise. You want to keep your thesis debatable, but add details that suggest how you might build your case. Try adding a "because." This thesis lays out the topic, states your position, and gives a clear sense of your reasoning.

So you state your position. But why should a reader care? For a good argumentative thesis, you've got to have a "so what," a sense of why the argument matters. Try starting with the word "although." Now, instead of a thesis that just says, "this is bad," you're saying, "look, I get that schools need more funding. But this isn't the way to do it, and here's why." That's way more convincing.

In the end, there isn't one right way to craft a thesis. As long as yours is debatable, specific, and conveys why your argument matters, you'll put yourself and your readers on the right path.