# Steps to Writing the Thesis

1. Think of 10 topics.
2. Balance ***interest*** and ***research sources*** when thinking about which topic to use.
3. Create (a) and (b), where (a) is your general topic and (b) is your direction. It helps to make (b) a question, such as “Why…?” or “How…?” Basically, your (b) is what you want to learn, what you want to research, and what you want to say in your paper.
4. Begin research by finding and writing references and taking notes that will help you to answer your (b) question.
5. Begin prewriting by reviewing your notes and then deciding:
   * Your main idea sentence

* Your various topic sentences

1. Your main idea sentence is not your (b), but you use your (b) to make your main idea sentence. Do NOT make your main idea sentence a question!
2. Be sure that your topic sentences support your main idea sentence.
3. Begin writing your first draft! (See the *Writing Style Checklist* for more information).

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