

Video #8

WRITING A PAPER: HELPFUL STRATEGIES

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HELPFUL STRATEGIES

- **Set goals and a timeline**
- Reading takes time
- Writing takes time
- Decide what you want to accomplish
- Set dates by when you want to do it

HELPFUL STRATEGIES

■ Prewriting

- Think about your topic(s)
- What do you want to know?
- What do you want the reader to know?
- Ask yourself questions: How big of a problem is this, what causes it, what do we know?
- Take notes of your ideas
- Talk to someone else about them
- Use this as a start!

HELPFUL STRATEGIES

- Writing a thesis statement

- This is a sentence or paragraph that briefly tells the reader what the paper is about

- It states a fact OR Expository: summarizing what is known about a topic

- makes an argument Argumentative: taking a stand based on what is known about a topic

THESIS STATEMENTS

- **Example 1: Expository**

- “Climate change is defined as a ‘long-term variation in weather patterns.’ Research shows that this is a real problem and that it is caused by human activities.”
- A paper with this thesis statement would demonstrate that this is true and why, using evidence from studies
- **(be precise, semi-formal, impersonal, objective!)**

THESIS STATEMENTS

■ **Example 2: Argumentative**

- “Climate change is real and caused by human activities. The most important contributor to climate change is burning fossil fuels. Countries around the world should reduce use of oil and gas and use alternative energy sources.”
- A paper with this thesis statement would try to convince the reader that this is true and why, using evidence from studies
- **(be precise, semi-formal, impersonal, objective!)**

THESIS STATEMENTS

- **Start your paper by writing a thesis statement**
- **Then write the paper to support that thesis statement**

CLAIMS

- **Making claims as part of an argument**
- A *claim* is a statement of:
 - fact (this is true)
 - cause and effect (this causes this)
 - value (this is important)
 - solution (this is what we should do to solve it)

CLAIMS

■ Examples of claims

- “What some people refer to as global warming is actually nothing more than normal, long-term cycles of climate change.” **Claim of FACT**
- “The popularity of SUVs in America has caused pollution to increase.” **Claim of CAUSE AND EFFECT**
- “Global warming is the most pressing challenge facing the world today.” **Claim of VALUE**
- “Instead of drilling for oil in Alaska we should be focusing on ways to reduce oil consumption, such as researching renewable energy sources.” **Claim of SOLUTION**

CLAIMS

- Write out claims of fact, cause and effect, value, and solution
- Then find evidence to support or refute these claims
- Then use the claims and evidence to support your thesis statement in paper