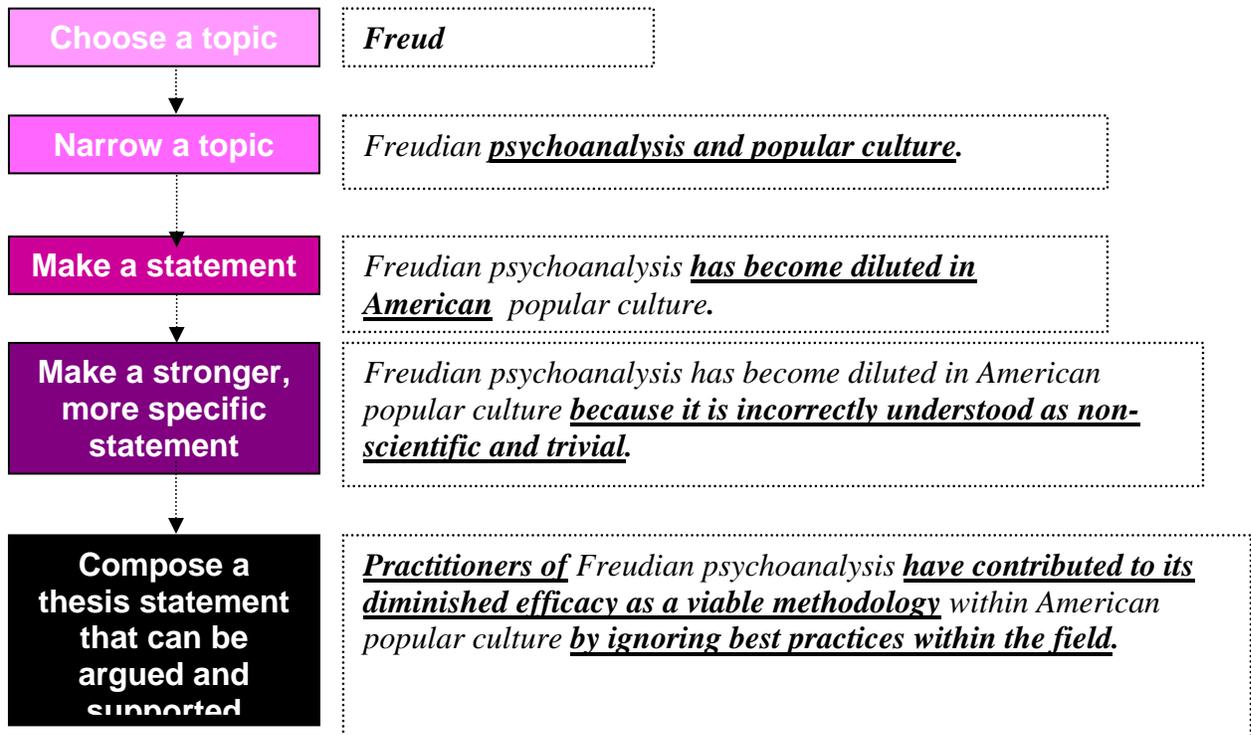


## Developing a Thesis Statement

A **thesis statement** is more than a sentence that describes a topic. It is a bold sentence that presents a point of view, an opinion, or an idea that is **arguable**. Because it is arguable, a thesis statement goes beyond making an observation—it makes a case for or against something.

Developing a thesis statement requires that you consider a variety of information and perspectives about your topic; the development of the thesis statement reflects this process.



*This thesis has the right components: it states a claim that can be argued, that will need rigorous evidence to support it, and—perhaps most importantly within academic writing—that people will debate. In other words, this thesis statement isn’t a “Truth”—rather, it is an arguable position that can be defended with rigorous scholarly evidence.*

### When during the writing process should I develop a thesis statement?

It depends. If you are sorting through your material and don’t know in which direction you’re going, it might be best to develop only a tentative thesis until you understand your topic more completely. Later, when your understanding is more complete, a strong and focused thesis statement can help you produce a coherent draft of your essay. Clear thesis statements can give you an added boost as you launch into the writing process.