

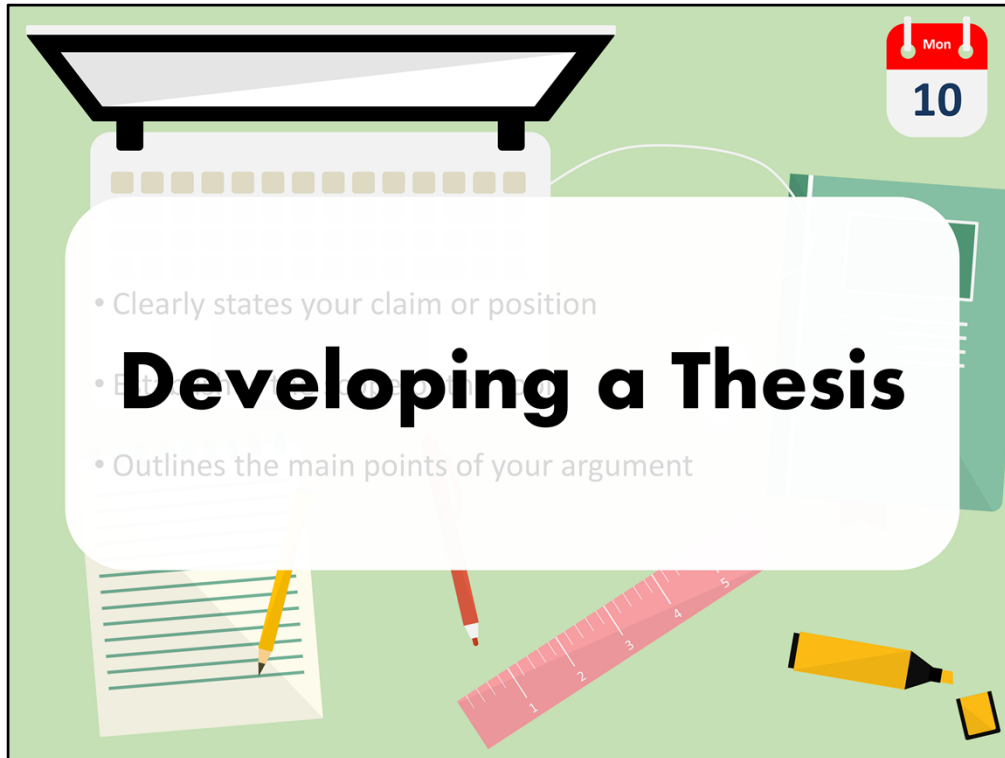
**Module 2: Literature and Language Throughout History**  
**Topic 3 Content: Developing a Thesis Notes**



Developing a Thesis

## Module 2: Literature and Language Throughout History

### Topic 3 Content: Developing a Thesis Notes



After narrowing down a topic, you should develop a working thesis. A strong thesis statement:

- States your claim or position;
- Establishes the scope of the topic; and
- Outlines the main points of your argument.

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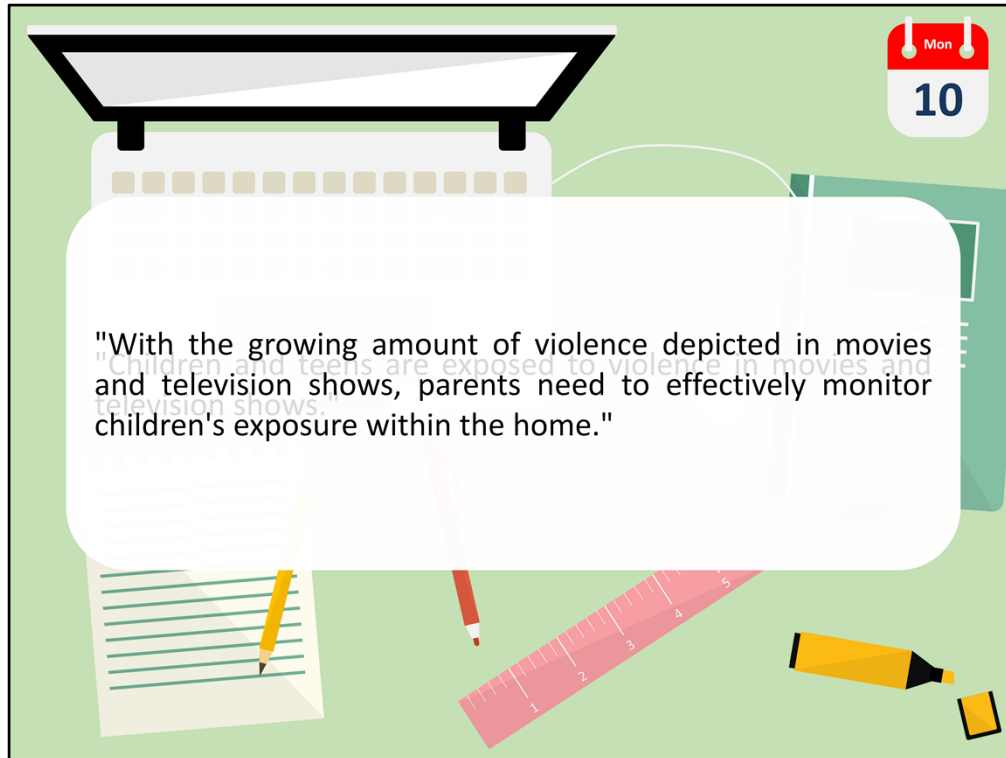
In addition, a strong thesis statement must also be arguable. In other words, it must be a claim that can be disputed by the opposing viewpoint. If your thesis statement is a claim with which everyone already agrees, then you have nothing to prove or argue.

For example, suppose that your topic is exposure of young people to violence in the media. A weak thesis statement for this topic might be:

"Children and teens are exposed to violence in movies and television shows."

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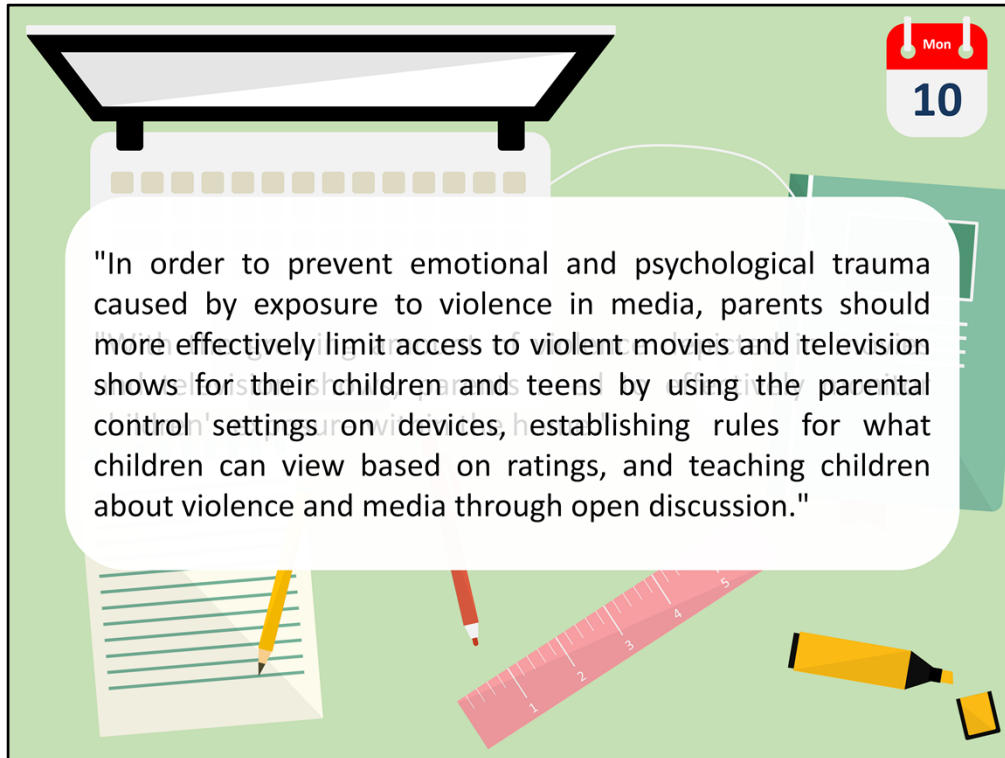
"With the growing amount of violence depicted in movies and television shows, parents need to effectively monitor children's exposure within the home."

Most people would agree that there are acts of violence in movies and television shows made specifically for young people, in today's society. Thus, this weak thesis statement comes closer to a statement of fact rather than a thesis that argues one side of a position with an opposing viewpoint. To make this thesis statement stronger, you could rework it as:

"With the growing amount of violence depicted in movies and television shows, parents need to effectively monitor children's exposure within the home."

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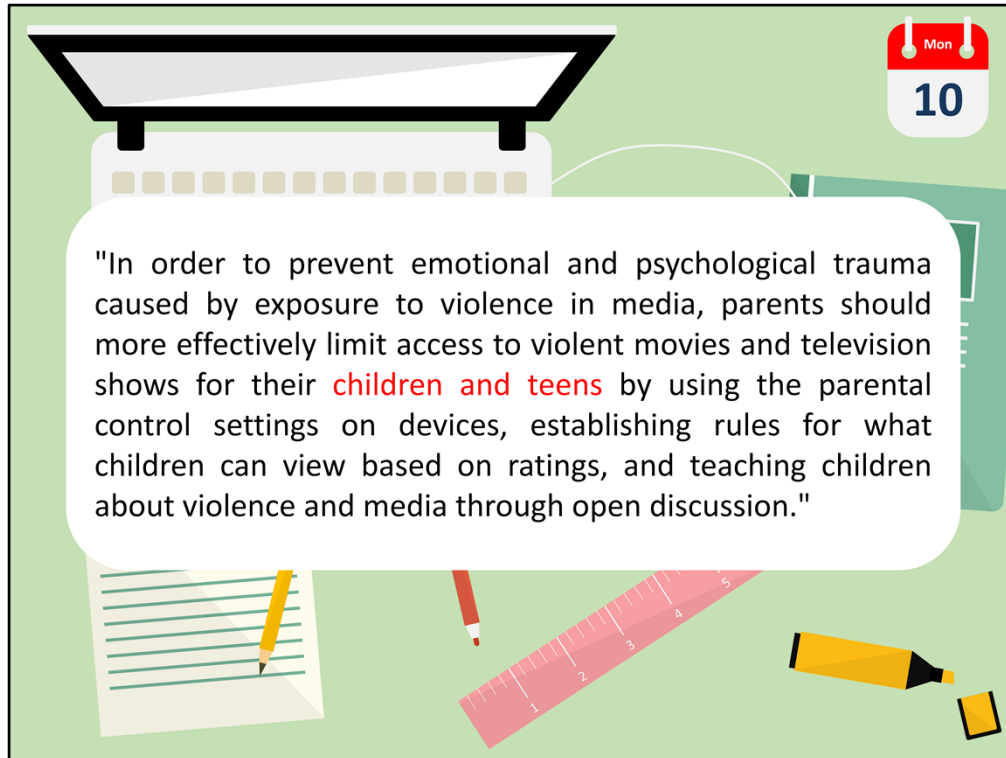
"In order to prevent emotional and psychological trauma caused by exposure to violence in media, parents should more effectively limit access to violent movies and television shows for their children and teens by using the parental control settings on devices, establishing rules for what children can view based on ratings, and teaching children about violence and media through open discussion."

Notice that this revised version of the thesis statement asserts the clear position that parents should control exposure to violence in the media for their children. This is a stronger claim because someone might disagree with it and argue that parents do not need to limit access to media. Although this revised thesis statement is stronger than the first version, it can be made even stronger because it may be too ambiguous or open-ended. For example, how should parents monitor access to violence in media? Why should parents monitor access to violence in media? What are the consequences of not doing so? A yet stronger version of this thesis statement is the following:

"In order to prevent emotional and psychological trauma caused by exposure to violence in media, parents should more effectively limit access to violent movies and television shows for their children and teens by using the parental control settings on devices, establishing rules for what children can view based on ratings, and teaching children about violence and media through open discussion."

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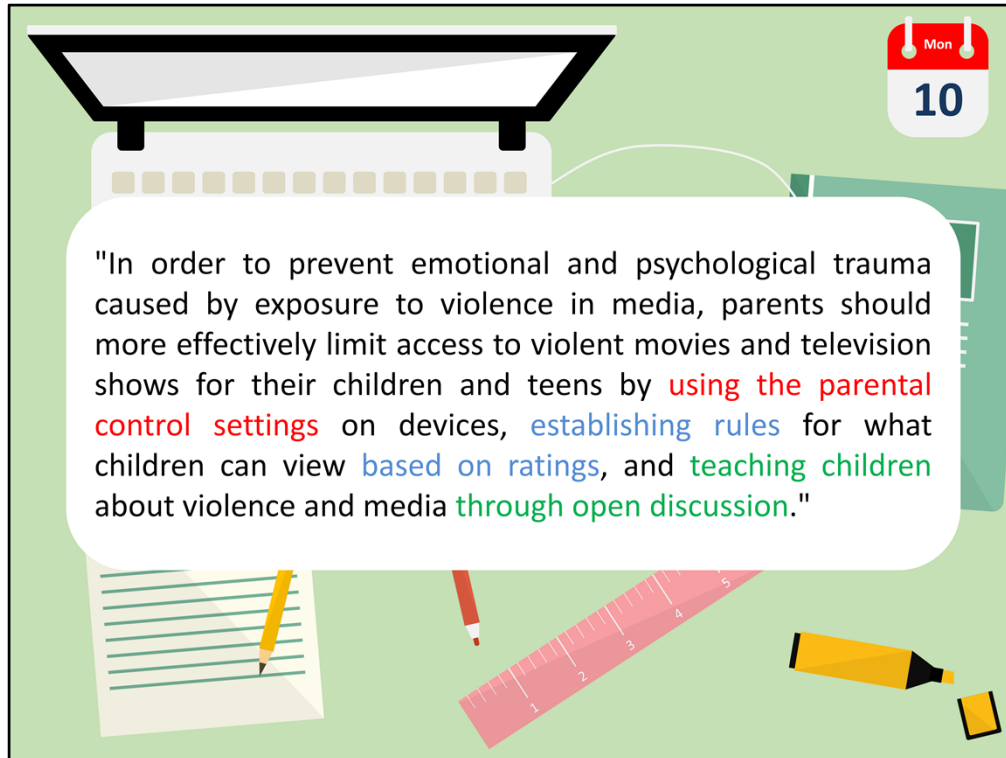
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This example of a thesis statement is very strong in part because it clearly states the author's position: Parents should more effectively limit children's access to violence in media in order to prevent negative side effects on children. Furthermore, the thesis statement establishes the scope of the topic concerning violence in media: The reader can expect to focus on violence found specifically in movies and television shows (as opposed to video games or music) and on exposure to such violence regarding children and teens, not older adults.

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Lastly, another characteristic that makes this thesis statement very strong is that it outlines the main points of the author's argument. More effective methods for limiting access include:

1. Using parental control settings
2. Establishing rules based on ratings
3. Teaching children through open discussion

The reader can expect to learn about the effects of violence depicted in media on young people as well as each strategy for limiting access. It is now up to the author to convince the reader that there are negative effects of such media and that the strategies mentioned are the most effective.