

Graduate  
Seminar  
19 Sept.



Morning: project proposal &  
hackpact

Afternoon: thesis outline

Thesis outline howto

# 1. Thesis statement

## **What is a thesis statement?**

A thesis statement is a sentence that states your argument to the reader.

(It usually appears in the first paragraph of an essay)

## What is it good for?

It states what you will discuss in your essay:

- defines the **scope and focus** of your essay
- prepares your unsuspecting reader **what to expect** from the essay.

It is very helpful in constructing the outline of your essay.

## Quick draft of a statement:

1. pick a topic + a focus.
2. Make a claim or argument in one sentence.
3. Revise the sentence by using **specific** terms.
4. Further revise the sentence to cover the **scope** of your essay and make a strong statement.



# Quick try-out:

1. Topic:  
Little red riding hood  
Focus:  
as prequel to #metoo







petite fille de vil-  
lage, la plus jolie  
qu'on eût su voir :  
sa mère en était  
follé, et sa mère-  
grand plus folle  
encore. Cette bon-  
ne femme lui fit  
faire un petit cha-  
peron<sup>1</sup> rouge, qui  
lui seyait si bien,  
que partout on  
l'appelait le petit  
Chaperon rouge.

2. Claim or argument: the fairytale can be read as an early description of rape culture.



3. Revise the sentence by using **specific** terms:  
The fairytale Little red riding hood can be read as an early attempt to raise awareness about rape culture and as a metaphor for the Kavanaugh hearings.

4. Further revision to cover the **scope** of your essay and make a strong statement:

The fairytale Little red riding hood can be read as an early attempt to raise awareness about rape culture and as a metaphor for the Kavanaugh hearings in which it becomes apparent that very little has changed when it comes to the normalisation of sexual violence against women since Louis XIV.

Can you revise your statement?

**YES**

**please :)**

## **The outline**

- A "road map" of your essay.
- list the arguments & subtopics in a logical order.



## **Why an outline?**

- helps to target your research areas.
- helps keep you within the scope without going off-track.
- helps to order your argument well while writing.

# The basics

1. introduction
2. body of thesis
3. conclusion

# **Making a quick draft**

1. list all the major topics and subtopics with key points that support them.
2. Put similar topics and points together and arrange them in a logical order.

## **I. Introduction**

1. Background
2. Thesis Statement

## **II. Body**

First Topic

Point A

1. Supporting evidence
2. Supporting evidence

Point B

1. Supporting evidence
2. Supporting evidence

Second Topic

Point A

1. Supporting evidence
2. Supporting evidence

Point B

1. Supporting evidence
2. Supporting evidence

Third Topic

Point A

1. Supporting evidence
2. Supporting evidence

## **III. Conclusion**

1. Summarize the main points of your paper and Restate your thesis in fresh words.
2. Make a strong/memorable final statement

## **I. Introduction**

1. Background: Witnessing the Kavanaugh hearings reminded me of fairytales in which girls are victim of someone in power, wanted to explore more parallels between early versions of Little red riding hood and the Kavanaugh hearings.

2. Thesis Statement: The fairytale Little red riding hood can be read as an early attempt to raise awareness about rape culture and as a metaphor for the Kavanaugh hearings in which it becomes apparent that very little has changed when it comes to the normalisation of sexual violence against women since Louis XIV.

## **II. Body**

First Topic: early versions of Little red riding hood and the position of women in the court of Louis XIV

Point A: Charles Perrault's 1697 Petit Chaperon Rouge warns women of smooth talking men yet is not a story of empowerment for women.

1. Chaperon rouge is helpless

2. The wolf is simply being a wolf, no punishment, no accountability. Uomo lupus est.

Second Topic: the Kavanaugh hearings and accountability of the elites in the US.

Point A: How is it even a question if he should be instated?

1. Even doubt about someones moral judgments should prevent a consideration for the highest position in the US legal system.

2. Kavanaugh belongs to an elite which is above the law.

Third Topic: rape culture, raising awareness through fairytales and hashtags.

Point A: feminist rewrites of little red riding hood

1. Example 1 & parallels to today.

2. Example 2 & parallels to today.

## **III. Conclusion**

1. Summarize the main points of your paper and restate your thesis in fresh words.

2. Make a strong/memorable final statement: Kavanaugh hearing demonstrates the unaccountability of the elites and the culpabilisation of women has not changed much since Louis XIV but will hopefully undo some of the normalization of rape culture and empower women to keep speaking out and hold those committing these crimes accountable.



# Homework

- 1) Draft thesis outline
- 2) Continue the annotated bibliography by describing how the texts relate to your research (word limit of 200 words).
- 3) Draft of proposal (30 September upload, Marloes and Steve give feedback the next session).
- 4) "Hackpact" a sketch each day - write a few lines on each of these experiments. Upload on wiki.