

What Is a Thesis?

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THESIS (from Google)

1. a statement or theory that is put forward as a premise to be maintained or proved.
2. a long essay or dissertation involving personal research, written by a candidate for a college degree.

Where Do I Begin?

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1. What are my interests?
2. What problem am I interested in solving?
3. What aspect of the human condition am I interested in exploring?

How Do I Begin?

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- 1. Is there a location or site that interests me?**
 - a. “I want to design something in my family’s native country”
 - b. “I want to repurpose Governor’s Island”
 - c. “I want to investigate floating cities.”

How Do I Begin?

Is there a program or building type I want to investigate?

- a. “I’m interested in new affordable housing prototypes.”
- b. “I want to investigate alternative retail options in the post-pandemic world.”
- c. “I want to prototype the office of the future.”

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How Do I Begin?

Is there a human condition I want to explore?

- a. “I want to study the impact of an architectural intervention on the existing urban fabric.”
- b. “I’m interested in designing a school for the study of cultural diversity.”
- c. “I want to design a facility for human composting.”

How Do I Begin?

1. Is there a location that interests me?
2. Is there a program or building type I want to investigate?
3. Is there a problem I want to solve?
4. Is there a human condition I want to explore?

What will I produce this first semester?

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A Thesis

1. Clear statement of purpose
2. A fully documented report of research that reinforces and verifies your statement.

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You will devise a thesis statement (abstract) that will direct your research.

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You will devise a thesis statement (abstract) that will direct your research.

- a. Think of it as a scientific hypothesis – a notion or conjecture.
- b. As you pursue your research, you must regularly return to your thesis statement. With research you will develop knowledge, and knowledge will inform your thesis statement.

What will I produce this first semester?

Think of this as an intense version of a typical school project

- i. Concept
- ii. Site research
- iii. Precedents
- iv. New Activity
 1. Devising a Detailed Program – does your program support your thesis?
 2. Devising a detailed procedure or methodology

A Year for a Thesis Project

- **First Semester:** Concept (Thesis) Development and Research; (Test Studies Sketches and Diagrams)
- **Second Semester:** Implementation (Design)