**ESL95 How to analyze a writing prompt and create a strong thesis statement**

**Resources:**

* + [Understanding Writing Prompts](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4wFanOCLduY) A solid approach even though it is directed towards K-12 and the pictures show middleschoolers. Includes practice
  + [Analyzing Prompts: Strategy Guide](https://www.tesol.org/docs/default-source/new-resource-library/breaking-down-a-writing-prompt-3.pdf?sfvrsn=0) A one-page strategy guide that introduces annotation of the prompt during analysis
  + [How to Write a Thesis Statement | 3 Steps & Examples](https://www.scribbr.com/academic-essay/thesis-statement/)
  + [How to Write a Strong Thesis Statement](https://www.easybib.com/guides/writing-guides/parts-of-a-paper/how-to-write-a-strong-thesis-statement/) An interesting discussion that includes the use of independent and dependent clauses to tie into the grammar portion of ESL95

**ACTIVITY 1**: **How to analyze a writing prompt and create a strong thesis statement**

When you are asked to write a paper, you are often asked to write about a topic the professor assigns. This is called the **writing prompt**. Analysis of a writing prompt can help you stay on track and ensure that you are staying on topic.

1. Watch the following video[Understanding Writing Prompts](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4wFanOCLduY) for an introduction to the vocabulary you will need to talk about prompts and some practice analyzing them.
2. Review [Analyzing Prompts: Strategy Guide](https://www.tesol.org/docs/default-source/new-resource-library/breaking-down-a-writing-prompt-3.pdf?sfvrsn=0), annotate it, and then answer four questions for the writing prompt you are working on for your current assignment:
3. What is the prompt asking you to do?
4. How can I use the prompt to help organize my paper?
5. Who is my intended audience?
6. What sources (if any) am I being asked to use?

**Activity 2:** Now, you are ready to write your thesis statement. Having a strong thesis statement is vital to the creation of a strong essay; it contains information about your topic, your opinion, and what you are going to discuss in your essay.

1. Watch [How to Write a Thesis Statement | 3 Steps & Examples](https://www.scribbr.com/academic-essay/thesis-statement/) and read the information included on the website with it.
2. Review the video and read the information here: [How to Write a Strong Thesis Statement](https://www.easybib.com/guides/writing-guides/parts-of-a-paper/how-to-write-a-strong-thesis-statement/) Pay particular attention to the discussion of active verb usage in the video and the thesis statement templates and the discussion of independent and dependent clauses in the article itself. The information in the article is more detailed than the video - don’t skip reading the article!

***INSTRUCTORS:*** *Use the writing prompt from your class or choose topics that represent the type of writing you’ll have your students do here:* [*Good Essay Topics & Ideas for College Students*](https://edusson.com/blog/best-essay-topics-ideas-for-college-students)