

1. To come up with your thesis, you first need to understand the **author's purpose** for the text you're analyzing. Start by answering these questions:

Who is the <b>author</b> of this text?	
What <b>situation</b> led up to this text?	
Who is the <b>audience</b> for this text?	

Then, scan the text and **underline any clues** about why the author wrote it. These could be sentences, phrases, or even verbs that help you understand the author's purpose.

Now, step back and look at your notes and underlined clues. What does the author **want the audience to think, feel, understand, or do** as a result of this piece of writing?

**Author's Purpose for the Text** *Example: to convince the audience to stand up against injustice*

2. Next, identify **rhetorical choices** that clearly serve the author's purpose. These are writing strategies that an author uses to make a text persuasive, effective, or moving.

Jot down any rhetorical choices or patterns that stood out to you when you read the text.

*Examples: figurative language, repeated sentence structures, logical arguments*

Star (☆ or \*) 2–3 rhetorical choices that are most essential for achieving the author's **purpose**.

3. Now, sum up in one or two sentences how the author uses these key rhetorical choices to achieve the purpose of the text. This will be your **thesis statement**. Here are some sentence frames to help you:

By using \_\_\_\_\_, [author] \_\_\_\_\_.

*choices* *purpose*

To \_\_\_\_\_, [author] \_\_\_\_\_.

*purpose* *choices*

**Thesis Statement**