

Activity: Thesis Outline

Write a thesis proposal based on the prompts below. Write as much as you can.	
1. It is a problem that ... (the starting point)	
2. It is a problem for in particular (<i>who</i> does it concern?)	
3. It will be useful for ... to (<i>who</i> should be able to use it for what in <i>which situation</i> ?)	
4. The problem is due to... (possible reasons)	
5. Therefore I aim to... (your intention: you intend to examine, find explanations for, interpret, analyze, discuss, recommend actions for...)	
6. I will examine the problem in this way ... (method and data, sources)	
7. I intend to understand the problem based on ... (theory)	
8. Some important words and concepts are... (conceptual definitions)	
9. I will only address ... because... (delimitation)	
10. I address the topic only from the perspective of ... (viewpoint)	
11. For now, I imagine these sections in this order (content and structure)	
12. I plan to do these activities ... and have these deadlines ... (planning and managing)	

Activity: Check your topic and your thesis idea

<i>You do not have to answer all the questions, but if your answer is 'no' more often than 'yes', you should consider finding a different topic.</i>	
<i>Can you identify a discipline-specific problem (something that you're wondering about, that you don't have an explanation for, or that is contradictory)?</i>	
<i>Is there a knowledge gap or is there knowledge that should be modified or corrected?</i>	
<i>Is there neither too much nor too little material?</i>	
<i>Can you build on others' work?</i>	
<i>Can you analyze or discuss on the basis of others' work?</i>	
<i>Can you find methods or procedures for carrying out the research?</i>	
<i>Do you know how to fill out all the corners of the pentagon (see the pentagon handout)?</i>	
<i>Can someone within or outside your field make use of your results/conclusions?</i>	
<i>Will your supervisor understand your project (preferably on the basis of your first talk)?</i>	
<i>Can you bring your own academic interests in play?</i>	
<i>Is there a topic that hasn't been written about in-depth before (in this way), a niche, something new, undescribed empirical material etc.?</i>	
<i>Are you able to offer your own perspectives on the problem?</i>	
<i>Will you be able to bear working on this topic for 6 months?</i>	