Creating a Working Thesis and Using it to Generate Research Terms

Step 1: State the **topic** under consideration
Example: (a) plastic waste (b) mental health crisis centers (c) police brutality

Step 2: State the specific **issue** in the form of a debating proposition

   (a) Plastic waste should be limited
   (b) Mental health crisis centers need more funding
   (c) Police brutality is a civil rights issue

Step 3: Using a *because* clause, convert the resolution into a sentence that states your **position** on the issue and provides a main **rationale** for that position (=rough thesis)

   (a) Plastic waste should be limited because it impacts local wildlife where it is deposited
   (b) Mental health crisis centers need more funding because they help the underserved populations in the poorest parts of the city
   (c) Police brutality is a civil rights issue because it disproportionately impacts people of color in New York City

Step 4: Polish and refine the rough thesis by adding **qualifications** (using an although clause) and **removing** the because clause (=thesis)

   (a) Although plastics are a necessary part of modern life, the impact of plastic waste on local wildlife demands that its use be limited.
   (b) Although the healthcare industry is notoriously strapped for cash, the services that mental health crisis centers provide for the poorest parts of the city necessitates they be better funded.
   (c) Although the police force is tasked with serving and protecting all New Yorkers equally, the disproportionate impact of police brutality on populations of color shows us that it is failing to serve and protect a large swath of the population.

Now that you have a working thesis, make a list of the things you will have to prove to support it. These are the things you will research.

    (a) Plastics
- Plastics are a necessary part of modern life
- Impact of plastic waste on local wildlife
- Ways of limiting plastics

    (b) Mental health crisis centers
- The healthcare industry is strapped for cash
- The services that mental healthcare crisis centers provide
- The locations of mental healthcare crisis centers relative to income

    (c) Police brutality
- Police are tasked with serving and protect all New Yorkers equally
- Police brutality impacts populations of color disproportionately
- Locations of incidents of police brutality relative to ethnic/ racial makeup