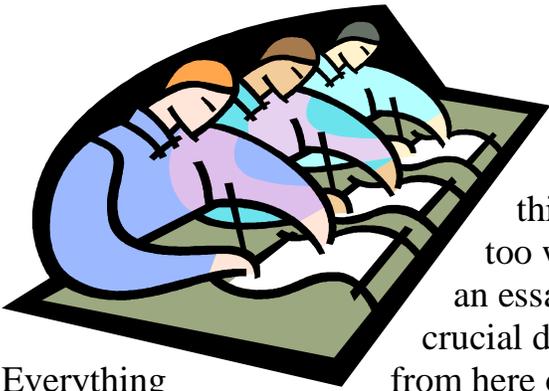


Thesis Generator



Step One: Read and actually understand. While this seems silly to bother putting in print, teachers know all too well the awesome agony and wonder of reading and scoring an essay in which it seemed you've missed the point, mangled a crucial detail, or simply misunderstood the whole thing.

Everything from here on assumes that you've read carefully and understand the reading about which you are writing and have a pretty good handle on things.

Step Two: Generate an **emotional response** to the piece (or pieces). Caution: Your job now is to write about the text(s)—not about your own lives. You must keep all responses firmly grounded in the world of the text.

After reading _____ I... (title of reading)	was angered by... laughed, because... cried, because... was puzzled by... wondered about... realized for the first time that... couldn't stop thinking about... decided that... was annoyed by... loved how... hated how...
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Step Three: Choose one of the above responses as your topic and focal point of the essay. For example,

After reading *Romeo and Juliet* I was angered by the **parents' inability to understand** their own kids' feelings.

After reading this article, I was annoyed that the author didn't present both sides about a really big problem for fisherman in the Great Lakes.

Step Four: Generate a guiding question about the topic.

Why are the parents so out of it?
Why do I say this author shows just one side of the debate about Asian Carp?

Step Five: Answer the question.

‘Cuz they kept everything on the D-L.
He doesn’t include any evidence that there could be different reasons for the problem.

Step Six: Refine your answer using academic language and syntax. This may take several tries before it “feels” right. Here’s a link to [academic vocabulary](#) you may wish to consider.

Romeo and Juliet’s parents’ inability to understand their own children’s needs is caused by the fact that they are kept deliberately in the dark.

By alienating their parents, Romeo and Juliet prevent themselves from getting the help they need.

The seemingly callous attitudes of the Capulet and Montague parents are a direct result of being kept in the dark by their own children.

The author of this column seems to be biased because he presented only negative things about the presence of Asian carp in the Great Lakes.

Suggesting that the presence of Asian carp in the Great Lakes is the direct result of immigrants who settled there, this author fails to give a complete picture of the problem.