

The ABC Method for Thesis Writing



The **ABC** Method is actually an acronym:

A: Argument

- What is your claim?
- This is a statement which someone else could refute, or argue against.

B: Because (Evidence/Support; How/Why)

- What points back up your argument?
- This is your support or evidence. This part of the thesis typically answers the question of why or how in your argument.

C: Conclusion (Purpose; So What)

- We call this the "So What" question. If I've read through your entire piece, when I get to the bottom, I'm going to ask: "So what?" Why did you write this? Why is your topic important? What should the reader take away?
- This section of your thesis addresses your purpose for writing.

Example:

A: Cats make fantastic pets...

Can you argue against this? Sure! I could absolutely say that cats make awful pets, and argue with you. (I would be a liar, but I could do it.)

B: ...because they are easy to take care of, are not very expensive, and make good companions...

- they are easy to take care of
- they don't require much attention
- they can be left alone at home while their owner works and be fine
- they're not very expensive compared to other pets
- their purrs are soothing to humans

These statements support the argument (and are backed up with research). If you're having trouble brainstorming, feel free to make bullet points (as shown above)! You can make it into a neat sentence afterward. **Note:** You do not have to use the word "because" here.

C: ...they should be adopted more often.

Why are you discussing this topic? Here, the writer is using a call-to-action as their purpose (in which they want the reader to *do* something). That's not the only kind of purpose you can have. Your purpose may be pointing out that an area of research has been largely neglected and needs greater attention, or that two areas of research are actually connected. **Note:** It can help to use the transition words "which" or "so" here.

Thesis: Cats make fantastic pets because they are easy to take care of, are not very expensive, and make good companions, which means that they should be adopted more often.

Your Turn!

A:

B:

Or:

-
-
-
-
-

C:

Now:

Put it together into a sentence below!
