**Creating a Working Thesis Statement**

**1. Topic: What is your topic?**

Example: DeLillo’s use of tone.

**2. Question: What is a question you have about your topic?**

Example: Why does the tone repeat its pattern.

**3. Answer: Rephrase the question as an attempt to answer the question.**

Example: The same four tones within *White Noise* repeat sequentially throughout the entire first part.

**4. Elaboration: Tell why you answer the question this way.**

Example: *White Noise* repeats the same four tones sequentially throughout the entire first part of the book because he is trying to bring the reader a more relatable form of storytelling. All of our lives tend to have the same tone throughout the day until a drastic event happens. After this event, our tone(s) go back to their normal cycle.

**\*Note: As you continue to investigate your topic, you may find yourself asking a slightly different question, answering your question in a new way, or discovering new points of elaboration. While becoming more familiar with a topic, good writers pay attention to and make note of these changes.**

1.Topic: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. Question: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3. Answer:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4. Elaboration:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Evaluating Your Working Thesis Statement**

It is important to keep in mind that creating a thesis statement is a process, and that your thesis may change as you explore your topic. Once you have constructed a working thesis statement for your essay (see reverse), you might begin your thesis revision process by asking yourself if your thesis statement meets the **SODA** criteria.

**S**: Is your thesis statement specific?

**O**: Does it express one main idea?

**D**: Is it discussable?

**A**: Is it an assertion?

**NOT SPECIFIC**: This essay will show that the North American Free Trade agreement was a disaster for the furniture industry.

**MORE SPECIFIC**: Neither neo-protectionism nor post-industrial theory explains the downswing of the Canadian furniture industry in 1988-1994; data on productivity and profits, however, can be closely correlated with provisions of the North American Free Trade Agreement that took effect in the same period.

**\* MORE THAN ONE MAIN IDEA**: Companies need to exploit the marketing potential of the Internet, and Web pages can provide both advertising and customer support.

**ONE MAIN IDEA**: Because the Internet is filled with tremendous marketing potential, companies should exploit this potential by using Web pages that offer both advertising and customer support.

**HINT**: Use subordinating conjunctions (because, since, so, although, unless, however) to indicate that one idea is more important than another.

\* **NOT DISCUSSABLE**: The current president of the United States was elected by only a relatively small majority.

**DISCUSSABLE**: After a long and difficult campaign, our current president was elected to his office by a relatively small majority of the American public, a fact that points to a current trend in America toward a preference for moderation when it comes to party lines.

**\* NOT AN ASSERTION**: In Huckleberry Finn, Mark Twain develops a contrast between life on the river and life on the shore.

**ASSERTION**: Through its contrasting river and shore scenes, Twain's Huckleberry Finn suggests that, to find the true expression of American democratic ideals, one must leave "civilized" society and go back to nature