

The Floating Thesis

Write or type out your working thesis on an index card or piece of paper.

Float it down next to each paragraph in the body of your draft and ask yourself these questions:

- Is the relationship of this paragraph to my thesis clear to the reader?
- Do I provide a sentence or sentences at the beginning of the paragraph that explicitly glues this paragraph to my thesis?
- Is this paragraph off the topic of my thesis?
- Do I have more than one point that support my thesis in this paragraph and so do I need to separate these points into two different paragraphs?
- Do I need to revise (expand, narrow, or refine) my thesis to match what I say in the body paragraphs?
- Do I need to change the body paragraphs of the essay to match my thesis?