

EXERCISE C1-3 In each of the following pairs, which sentence might work well as a thesis for a short paper? What is the problem with the other one? Is it too factual? Too broad? Too vague? Use the problem/solution approach from pages 8–9 to evaluate each thesis.

1. a. Many drivers use their cell phones irresponsibly while driving.
b. Current state laws are inadequate to punish drivers who use their cell phones irresponsibly to text, read e-mail, or perform other distracting activities.
2. a. Although Facebook was designed to help college students keep in touch, it actually keeps them apart by discouraging face-to-face interactions and creating an illusion of intimacy.
b. Facebook was designed to make it easier for people to keep in touch.
3. a. As we search to define the intelligence of animals, we run the risk of imposing our own understanding of intelligence on animals.
b. How does the field of animal psychology help humans define intelligence?
4. a. The high cost of college needs to be reduced because it affects students and their families.
b. To reduce the high cost of college, more students should be offered opportunities for dual-enrollment courses and a three-year college degree.
5. a. Anorexia nervosa is a dangerous and sometimes deadly eating disorder occurring mainly in young, upper-middle-class teens.
b. The eating disorder anorexia nervosa is rarely cured by one treatment alone; only by combining drug therapy with psychotherapy and family therapy can the client begin the long journey to wellness.

C1-d Draft a plan.

Listing and organizing supporting ideas can help you figure out how to develop your thesis. Creating outlines, whether formal or informal, can help you make sure your writing is focused and logical and can help you identify any gaps in your support.

When to use an informal outline

You might want to sketch an informal outline to see how you will support your thesis and to figure out a tentative structure for your ideas. Informal outlines can take many forms. Perhaps the most common is simply the thesis followed by a list of major ideas.

Working thesis: Animal testing should be banned because it is bad science and doesn't contribute to biomedical advances.

- Most animals don't serve as good models for the human body.
- Drug therapies can have vastly different effects on different species—92 percent of all drugs shown to be effective in animal tests fail in human trials.