

# THESIS STATEMENTS: PROGRESSING FROM A QUESTION

Following is an example of a research question and its evolution:

- Is D. H. Lawrence's relationship to his father important?
- How is this relationship important to Lawrence's works?
- Why has the importance of Lawrence's relationship with his father been overlooked by most critics, in contrast to his relationship to his mother?
- How is Lawrence's relationship to his father reflected in Lawrence's works, in contrast to the more direct reflection of his relationship to his mother?

Following is an example of a thesis statement that came out of the above research question:

Although Lawrence's relationship to his father is far less direct than that to his mother and far less recognized by Lawrence himself, it is more important than has been previously recognized, particularly as it shapes his interactions with nature and his appreciation of the capacity to act spontaneously.

Following is a sample outline based on the above thesis statement:

Introduction: Thesis

- I. Lawrence's relationship to his mother, rightly recognized
  - A. Recognition by Lawrence
  - B. Direct parallels to this relationship within Lawrence's works
    1. Sons and Lovers
    2. "The Mother Poems"
  - C. Recognition by critics
- II. Importance of Lawrence's relationship to his father
  - A. Lack of Recognition
    1. Lawrence's lack of awareness
    2. Lack of attention by critics
  - B. Indirect presence of this relationship within the works
    1. Force shaping his interactions with nature
      - a. Sons and Lovers
      - b. Early poems
      - c. The Rainbow
    2. Appreciation of spontaneity
      - a. The Rainbow
      - b. Birds, Beasts, and Flowers
      - c. Lawrence's essays

Conclusion