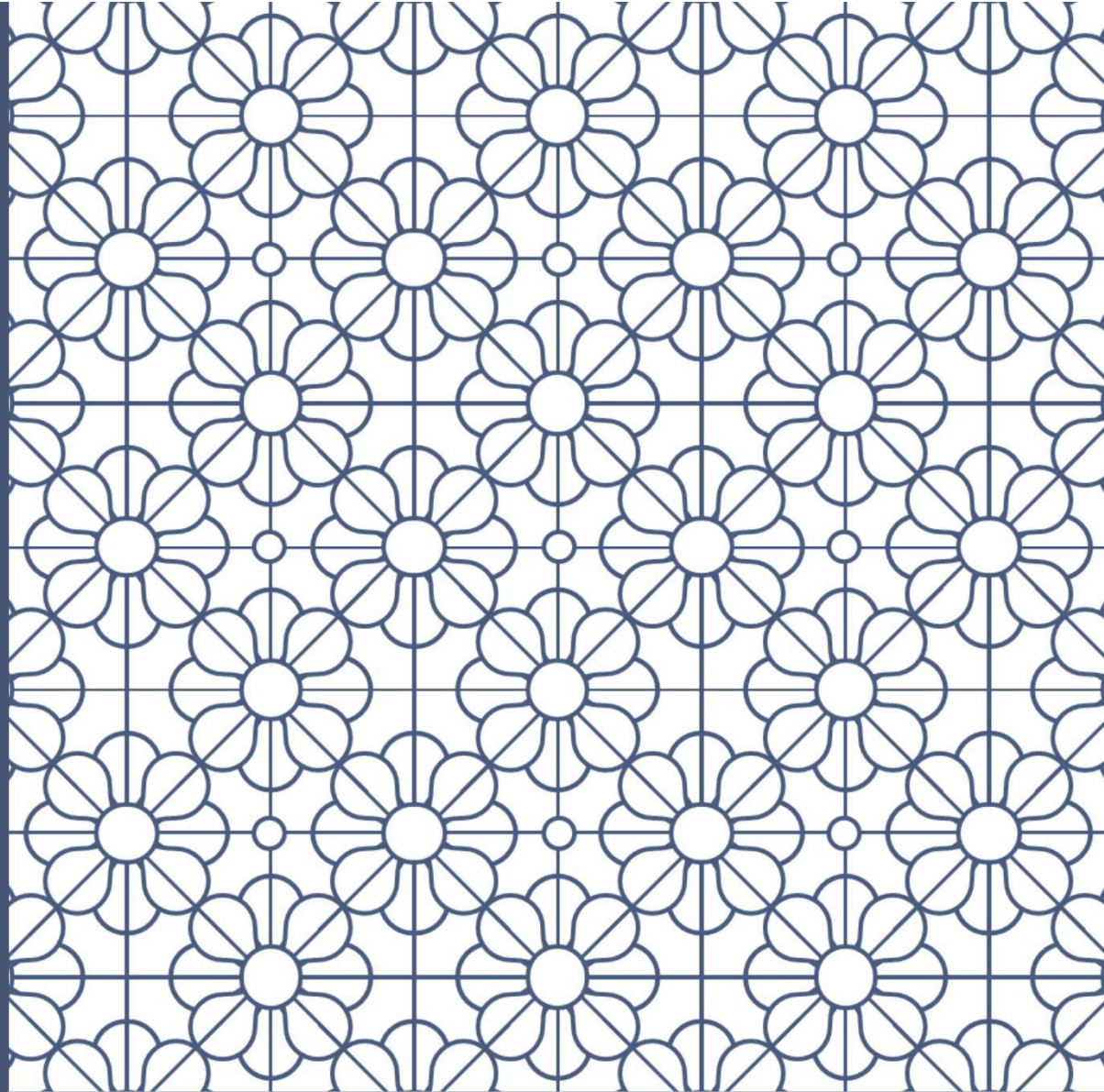


WRITING AN LSU THESIS



LSU THESIS

$$L + S = U$$

Limited subject + Specific predicate = Unified sentence

Subject = the topic of your essay

Predicate = the argument about your topic

LIMITED SUBJECT

- First, choose a TOPIC you would like to focus on in analyzing the text:
 - A character (e.g. Beowulf)
 - A group of characters (e.g. the Danes)
 - The author of the text
 - A literary work (e.g. *Beowulf*)
- Often, your topic will be decided for you by the essay prompt you choose.

LIMITED SUBJECT

- Choose a characteristic or element of your topic to focus on and make your subject LIMITED
 - Beowulf's **faith in God**
 - The **loyalty** of Beowulf, Hrothgar, and Wiglaf
 - The **boastful speeches** in *Beowulf*
 - *Can you think of others?*

SPECIFIC PREDICATE

- Now make a SPECIFIC *claim* about your subject. This is your PREDICATE.
- What is a claim?
 - A claim is an arguable statement, crafted for an audience to consider or accept.

SPECIFIC PREDICATE

- Decide what other important element of the text you see your SUBJECT connected to.
 - E.g. Beowulf's faith in God → **his triumph in battle**
 - E.g. Beowulf, Hrothgar, and Wiglaf's loyalty → **a central value of the ancient Germanic clans**
 - E.g. The bright presence of Heorot → **the attacks by Grendel and his mother**
 - This will be the OBJECT of your predicate.

STRONG VERB

- Finally, choose an active and strong VERB to connect your SUBJECT and PREDICATE.
- All verbs fall under two categories:
 - Linking (IS or HAS) → definitional arguments
 - Action (DOES) → cause and effect arguments

STRONG VERB

Advice:

- Make sure you understand the verb you're using. If you're not 100% sure you know the word, don't use it.
- Strong verbs don't have to be fancy. They just have to be precise.
- Examples: causes, leads to, creates, produces, precipitates, induces, compels, demonstrates, reflects, determines, reveals, establishes, indicates, verifies

STRONG VERBS

abolish	define	improve	reduce
accelerate	defuse	increase	refresh
achieve	deliver	indicate	replace
act	deploy	innovate	resist
adopt	design	inspire	respond
aim	develop	intensify	retain
align	diagnose	interfere	save
anticipate	discover	jump	scan
apply	drive	keep	segment
assess	eliminate	lead	setup
avoid	emphasize	learn	shatter
boost	ensure	leverage	show
break	establish	manage	sidestep
bridge	evaluate	master	signal
build	exploit	maximize	simplify
burn	explore	measure	solve
capture	filter	mobilize	stimulate
change	finalize	motivate	stop
choose	find	overcome	stretch
clarify	focus	penetrate	succeed
comprehend	foresee	persuade	supplement
compromise	gain	plan	take
confront	gather	pinpoint	train
connect	generate	position	transfer
conquer	grasp	prevent	transform
convert	identify	profit	understand
create	ignite	raise	unleash
cross	illuminate	realize	use
decide	implement	reconsider	win

STRONG VERB

Beowulf's faith in God **leads to** his triumph in battle.

Beowulf, Hrothgar, and Wiglaf's loyalty **reflects** a central value of the ancient Germanic clans.

The bright presence of Heorot **compels** the attacks by Grendel and his mother.

UNIFIED THESIS

- Now, go back and read your thesis statement to make sure it forms a UNIFIED thought.
 - A *unified* thesis is an argument that is *whole*. It is usually only a simple sentence (i.e., NOT compound).

Beowulf's faith in God leads to his triumph in battle.

Beowulf, Hrothgar, and Wiglaf's loyalty reflects a central value of the ancient Germanic clans.

The bright presence of Heorot compels the attacks by Grendel and his mother.

EXAMPLES

Are these theses LSU? Let's discuss!

- Heracles is brave, so he is a hero. Not LSU
- There are many reasons why Heracles is a hero. Not LSU
- Heracles's bravery, strength, and charisma make him a hero. Not LSU
- Bilbo and Frodo have similarities. Not LSU
- Bilbo's courage helps the dwarves. LSU

REPREDICATION

The method of taking the predicate of a non-LSU thesis statement, making it the subject of the thesis, and creating a new predicate.

Example: Heracles demonstrates bravery, which makes him a hero.

→ Heracles's bravery allows him to become a great hero.

Example: Beowulf and Hrothgar have many similarities, like their ability to hope, their generosity, and their loyalty.

→ Beowulf and Hrothgar's ability to hope exemplifies a quality of a good king.

REVISING A NON-LSU THESESES

See if these theses are LSU. If not, revise them to be LSU.

1. Heracles is brave, so he is a hero.
2. There are many reasons why Heracles is a hero.
3. Heracles's bravery, strength, and charisma make him a hero.
4. Bilbo's courage helps the dwarves.