

## The Evolving Thesis in Essay 3

The complications that you encounter are an opportunity to make your thesis evolve (which will make your thesis and analysis stronger).

1. Formulate an idea about your subject (a working thesis)
2. See how far you can make this thesis go in accounting for confirming evidence
3. Locate evidence that is not adequately accounted for by the thesis
4. Make explicit the apparent mismatch between the thesis and the selected evidence, asking and answering “so what?”
5. Reshape your claim to accommodate the evidence that hasn’t fit
6. Repeat steps 2 through 5 several times

Working Thesis:

Confirming Evidence:

Complicating Evidence:

Revised Thesis:

Confirming Evidence:

Complicating Evidence:

Revised Thesis:

Confirming Evidence:

Complicating Evidence:

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