

## ENG 1113 Unit 1: Essay Topic Development Worksheet

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Fill out the steps below to help discover ideas for your essay and then refine them into a working outline of your paper. Refer to Essay Writing Basics and the Thesis Equation for help in developing your ideas into topic sentences and thesis statements.

Category 1	Category 2	Category 3	Category 4
Topic	Why do I like this so much?	Specific examples of Category 2	Ideal audience
<i>Example:</i> Star Trek	<i>Example:</i> reflects the way I wish the world worked.	<i>Example:</i> people from all different walks of life working together; no worry about money or other life necessities; people focused on creating a better world.	<i>Example:</i> anyone who has a view that we can achieve great things if we learn to respect each other and live in peace; people who think Star Trek is just a sci-fi show and only about action.

From the information above, now sort your information by grouping together ideas that seem to logically go together. Usually, writers consider category 2 or 4 to help them do this – finding likeness either in the supporting points (category 2) or the audience targeted in the essay (category 4).

Which of these groupings will give you the best developed essay? Write a thesis statement for that, building off your topic. At this point, you may need to focus your topic more specifically, but the thesis should have your topic followed by what you want to tell your reader about that topic.

### THESIS STATEMENT:

From category 2 ideas, create topic sentences that will support the position you are taking in your thesis statement. Topic sentences will have a subject (what you are discussing) and an attitude (what you are telling the reader about that topic). The rest of the paragraph will be about developing that idea by using examples (Category 3) and then clarifying how these prove your thesis.

**Topic Sentence 1:**

**Topic Sentence 2:**

**Topic Sentence 3:**