

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class Period: \_\_\_\_\_

# Starting Your Paper:

If you've done a good job on your notecards and outline, this should be a breeze.

**1. First, you need a good thesis to guide your paper. Without a good thesis, your paper will be pointless, because your thesis is the point of the paper!**

**\*\*Remember, this is not a just-the-facts report. This is a higher-level thinking paper in which you prove a point about your topic.\*\***

**2. Hence, your good thesis statement. Let's try it:**

\_\_\_\_\_ influenced \_\_\_\_\_  
(my topic) (the class topic or American culture/history)

by \_\_\_\_\_  
(reason)

**Remember, your thesis should not be "captain obvious." It should make the audience go "hmm, interesting. I wonder how this writer will prove this point." If the audience might go "duh!", you might want to write a different thesis statement.**

**Ms. Horn or Ms. Brem will sign off on your thesis here:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Now you can start on your paper! You will be copying and pasting from your notecards to your wiki page, in addition to writing your introduction and conclusion and a few transitional sentences. See the handout to find out how.**