Developing a Thesis Statement for a Subject of Your Own Choice

1. Select a subject.
2. Test whether your subject is significant, single, specific, and supportable.
3. Using either a bottom-up or a top-down approach to generate ideas, identify three to five main points in support of your subject.
4. Test whether your main points are all significant, distinct, and clearly related to your subject.
5. Arrange your points in the order that is most likely to guarantee your reader’s understanding of the subject: chronological, climactic, logical or random.
6. Now rewrite your main points so that they are grammatically parallel: all single words, all phrases, or all clauses.
7. Combine your statement of subject with your main points to produce your thesis statement.

Essay Essentials with Readings, Sarah Norton and Brian Green, 4th Ed.