The Basic Thesis Formula:
However, A, B, and C. Therefore, Y. or Although X, Y because ABC.

- X = strongest point against the argument
- A, B, and C = 3 strongest points of the argument
- Y = position taken – the stand

Formula adapted for specific types of writing:

**Historical Causation:**
What are the major causes or consequences of "event" and what were the most important causes or consequences of "event"?

- X = least important cause or consequence, with an explanation why
- A, B, C = most important causes / consequences, explanations why, broken up thematically
- Y = your assertion statement

**Continuity and Change over Time:**
What are the major patterns of continuity or change over the time period and was there more continuity or change over that time period?

- X = continuity or change, your counter-argument
- A, B, C = continuity or change during the specified time period, broken up thematically
- Y = your assertion statement

**Compare and Contrast:**
What similarities and differences are there between the two things, are there more similarities or differences, and why, account for those similarities or differences?

- X = more similar or different, your counter-argument
- A, B, C = similarities or differences between two things, broken up thematically
- Y = your assertion statement

**Periodization (or Take a Position):**
Evaluate whether something was a turning point or a major marking period in history, noting what things were like before and after that period.

- X = counter argument, why something was or was not a turning point.
- A, B, C = argument, why something was a turning point broken up thematically
- Y = your assertion statement

**Basic Conclusion Formula**
Therefore, Y + BC. BC is similar/different to OC, because E.

- Y = your thesis
- BC = Broad Context ... what is the big picture within the era you are writing about... (identify one of the major historical themes)
- OC = Other Context (comparative context)... what other time period experienced a similar or different big picture/theme?
- E = explanation (at least one strong piece of evidence to support your comparison and an explanation of how or why the broad context of each era are similar or different)