



INTRODUCTION TO THE SOS METHOD

A great way to develop your thesis is by using the "SOS Method." SOS stands for:

S – Summary

Imagine the person viewing your project has never heard of this topic. Summarize your topic in one or two sentences. Give only the necessary information. What happened and when?

O – Opinion

This is where you begin to make your argument in your thesis. What do you think? How does your topic relate to communication in history and why? Say this in one or two sentences.

S – Significance

What was the long-term impact of your topic? Why does any of this matter today? Why does anyone need to know about your topic? Why do you think it's important? Explain this in one or two sentences.

When you put these together, you have your thesis statement – it answers the question "so what." Imagine if someone were to ask you about your topic. You tell them about your topic and they say "so what? Who cares? Why does it matter?"

Your topic:

Answer the S:

Answer the O:

Answer the S:

Put it all together:



“SO WHAT?”

Activity

Using the story below, pull out the SOS to write a thesis statement. As you are reading, think about what is being debated. Were there diplomatic efforts? How did they help?

In the year 2065, an alien species from planet Zarplo, along with their robotic counterparts, settled on Mars. For 15 years, Mars had already been inhabited by roughly 500 United States citizens occupying a space station on the planet. Upon first landing, the Zarplos were blocked from development by U.S. officials. Over the course of 2 years, deliberations between Zarplo and U.S. diplomats determined that Zarplos could be allotted a 370 square mile plot of land roughly 200 miles west of the U.S. space station and that they would be under U.S. jurisdiction. The Zarplo were required to pay an income tax to the U.S. government based on Mars, but were not allowed any voting rights, nor could they expand their land. As the Zarplo population grew over the next couple of decades, it became crucial for them to expand their settlement and infrastructure. In 2092, Zarplo officials called a meeting with U.S. officials to debate the issue of Zarplo's inability to vote or expand. After a 2-year deliberation, the U.S. granted the aliens of Zarplo full citizenship and extended all freedoms granted to U.S. citizens, while allowing Zarplo to remain its own state on Mars. Zarplo was then able to adequately expand their land. This led to extensive collaboration among the Zarplo and people of the U.S., which significantly benefited the Mars colony. 50 years later, another meeting was held among Zarplo and the U.S. to determine this issue of robotic rights. Zarplo custom on their original planet granted equal rights to their robots as the alien population. Following the same diplomatic process to grant Zarplo equality, the U.S. and Zarplo came to an agreement that Zarplo robots would be granted the same rights as their Zarplo counterparts.

Summary

Opinion

Significance

Thesis/So What?
