**Moving from Informative to Argumentative Theses**

**Understanding the Difference**

The key difference between these thesis types is that:

* An informative thesis simply states what the paper will cover
* An argumentative thesis takes a position that requires evidence and persuasion

**Steps for Transformation**

1. **Identify the core topic** in the informative thesis
2. **Determine a debatable position** related to that topic
3. **Add qualifying language** that indicates judgment or evaluation
4. **Incorporate specific criteria** that will be used to support the argument
5. **Consider counterarguments** to ensure the position is truly debatable

**Practical Tips for Students**

1. **Use evaluative language**: Replace neutral terms with words that show judgment (effective, insufficient, crucial)
2. **Add a "because" clause**: This forces students to include reasoning for their position
3. **Apply the "so what?" test**: Ask why anyone should care about this position
4. **Introduce tension**: Acknowledge opposing viewpoints to create a reason for argument
5. **Be specific and narrow**: Replace general topics with focused claims

**Examples of Transformation Techniques**

1. **Add a value judgment**:
	* Informative: "Many factors have contributed to rising college tuition costs."
	* Argumentative: "Rising college tuition costs are creating an unsustainable burden for middle-class families."
2. **Transform description into evaluation**:
	* Informative: "Currently two main teaching methods are practiced in most US schools."
	* Argumentative: "Project-based learning is more effective than lecture-based instruction for developing critical thinking skills."
3. **Convert comparison into advocacy**:
	* Informative: "Online and in-person learning offer different educational benefits and disadvantages."
	* Argumentative: "Despite technological advances, in-person learning still provides superior educational outcomes for most undergraduate students."