

Thesis Builders

One claim. Two reasons. A sturdy foundation.

THIS BOARD SUPPORTS
Thesis

Build from the ground up

Keep one prompt for the whole game. Each successful turn adds one level to your own thesis.

4

THESIS

Combine your position and two reasons into one clear sentence.

Park player tokens
after passing level 4

3

REASONS

Give two different reasons that support your position.

Park player tokens
after passing level 3

2

POSITION

Write a clear, debatable answer to the prompt.

Park player tokens
after passing level 2

1

TOPIC

Name the issue and what the prompt asks you to decide.

Park player tokens
after passing level 1

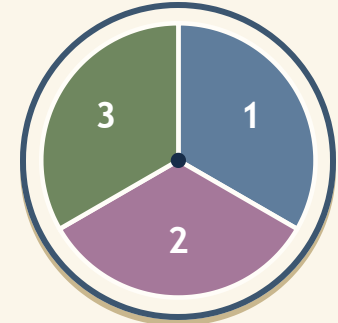
START • Foundation

All tokens begin here. Move up exactly one level after a successful turn.

A strong thesis

“Our school should plant a garden because it gives students science practice and provides fresh food.”

Spin your challenge



Hold a paper clip at the center with a pencil tip; flick to spin. On a line? Spin again.

1 Say your idea, then write it.

2 Write it, then read it aloud.

3 Get one partner suggestion, then write.

How to Play

2–4 builders • 15–20 minutes

Use page 2, paper, pencils, and a paper clip.

1. Cut the prompt cards and tokens. Draw one shared prompt for the group. Each player copies the four level headings onto their own paper.
2. Take turns clockwise. Spin to choose how you work on your next level. Keep earlier notes as you build.
3. Read your work. The next player checks it against that level's directions. Ask the teacher if needed. Pass: move your token up one level. Not yet: stay and revise on your next turn.
4. At level 4, also check: complete sentence, clear position, two distinct relevant reasons. First to pass all four levels wins. Everyone reads their thesis.

Builder Kit

Cut six prompt cards and four lettered player tokens.

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Thesis

BUILDING PERMIT 1

Should our school plant a garden?

Take a position and support it with two reasons.

BUILDING PERMIT 2

Should students have a daily independent reading time?

Take a position and support it with two reasons.

BUILDING PERMIT 3

Should classes take more outdoor learning trips?

Take a position and support it with two reasons.

BUILDING PERMIT 4

Should students help choose cafeteria meals?

Take a position and support it with two reasons.

BUILDING PERMIT 5

Should schools offer an art club?

Take a position and support it with two reasons.

BUILDING PERMIT 6

Should classes use more group projects?

Take a position and support it with two reasons.

A**B****C****D**

Copy these headings onto your paper

1. TOPIC**2. POSITION****3. REASONS****4. THESIS**

Partner check: 1 names the issue; 2 answers the question with a position someone could disagree with; 3 gives two different reasons supporting that position; 4 states the position and both reasons in one complete sentence. Either position may work.

Example for permit 2: Schools should provide daily reading time because it builds reading fluency and lets students discover new interests. Reasons explain a position; they are not a substitute for evidence in a full essay.