Building a Snowman

A good argument grows slowly from start to finish. The thesis can't be argued at the start of the essay. It takes time to build the evidence and analysis necessary to "prove" any complex claim. Be patient.

Develop the motivation

Thesis

Introduce needed background

Begin to discuss the evidence and analysis

Build the complexity and add needed counterarguments

Slowly start to develop the big analytical ideas that "prove" your thesis – you can only talk about these ideas here BECAUSE of everything above

Pull together the argument

Conclude