THESIS STATEMENTS

1. **Must be debatable (you want to persuade the audience)**

2. **Claims must be supported by evidence (research)**

3. **Clearly indicates what the writer will be discussing in the paper**

4. **Establishes a direction for the essay**

3 Essential Elements of a Thesis Statement using a Literary Theory

1. **AUTHOR**
2. **TITLE**
3. **MEANING/MESSAGE/THEME ANALYSIS (as linked to 1-2 theory)**

PUT THESE THESIS STATEMENTS IN ORDER FROM WEAKEST TO STRONGEST….

Nadine Gordimer's *Train from Rhodesia* uses the setting to convey the message of debilitating poverty of the natives right in front of the naïve ruling class in order to comment on the economic and social impact of apartheid for both blacks and whites.

Nadine Gordimer's short story criticizes the ruling white class in South Africa's apartheid.

Nadine Gordimer writes about socio-economic class.

HELPFUL HINTS

The author (creates/writes/uses) _____ (character/metaphor/analogy/motif/image) to illustrate _____ about the (theme/message) of the novel.

Through the use of (literary elements)_____,the characters begin the novel as _____ and become _____ to illustrate the author's message that _____ .

USE THOSE ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS FROM YOUR THEORY PACKETS!!!

REMEMBER YOUR BODY
PARAGRAPH **MINIMUM**
FORMULA SHOULD BE…..

You hate this essay, you want to use someone else's words!!!

Most Valuable Sentence! This is the analysis of how the quote connects to your thesis

Point of your paragraph which sets up your quote

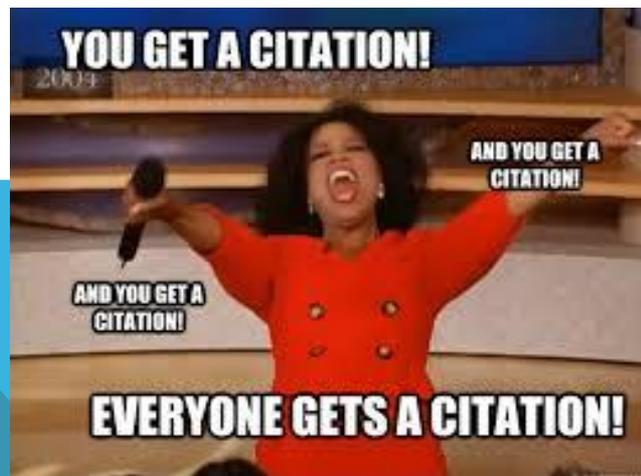Pinkies up- close your thoughts, transition out, you've finished your tea

Thumbs up! Ready to go! Transition into your paragraph.

PRE-RESEARCH…

1. **Write down a few literary elements that you would like to include in your paper**

2. **How do the literary elements reveal something about the text THEN what does it do for the reader**

3. **Start your research based on what you THINK your thesis will be**

4. **Then develop the thesis based on what you find**

YOU SHOULD HAVE ONE CITATION PER PARAGRAPH!

WHERE TO FIND RESEARCH?

1. ALJ DATABASES

LET'S REVIEW….

Databases that will be useful:

1. **Ebsco MasterFile (START HERE FOR A BROADER SEARCH..THEN NARROW IT DOWN) -> Literary Reference Center**

2. **Facts On File -> Bloom's Literature**

3. **Literature Resource Center**

You will need the passwords when you use these sites off campus

KEYWORDS

When searching your topic don't just type in a question…

Use search terms and keywords

If you can't find your book- search just your AUTHOR!

Examples:

Jay Gatsby AND hope

F. Scott FItzgerald AND socio-economic class

The Great Gatsby AND moral decay

THERE ARE 180,000 ARTICLES ABOUT MY TOPIC BUT I DON'T KNOW WHICH ONE TO READ

Think of three keywords that you can use for your search and write them down

IN-TEXT CITATIONS

Do not use quotation marks around work that has been paraphrased.

Use quotation marks around direct quotes under four typed lines and integrate it into a double spaced paragraph using transitions.

Do not use quotation marks for a direct quote more than four typed lines. Instead, double indent and single space the entire quote and integrate into the paragraph.

When citing from a periodical or book, use the author's last name (or first word on the Works Cited page) and the page number: (Walker 115).

When citing from an electronic internet source, use the author's last name only (Hacker). If your source does not have an author, use the first word in the entry on the Works Cited page or an abbreviated title and a page number, if a bound material: (*MLA* 204).

https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/02/

WORKS CITED

The basic form for a book citation is:

Last Name, First Name. Title of Book. Publisher, Publication Date.

Database:

Author. Title. Title of the container. Other contributors, Version, Number, Publisher's name, Date of publication, Location.

DO NOT FORGET

1.   CITATIONS ARE USUALLY AVAILABLE FROM THE DATABASE!

2.   ALWAYS REMEMBER TO E-MAIL YOURSELF ARTICLES WHEN YOU FIND THEM SO YOU CAN GO BACK

3.   USE SEARCH KEYWORDS TO FIND BETTER RESULTS

4.   GET DATABASE PASSWORDS!

5. PURDUE OWL IS A GOOD MLA GUIDE

6. YOU CAN USE YOUR ACTIVITY PERIOD TO DO THIS!