



Thematic Statement & Thesis

Giving our essays some direction



Thematic Statements

- The message the author is trying to send about an important idea in his/her work
 - Important idea = big picture concept present in a work
- Complete sentences
- Don't tell the reader what people "should" do
- Use original wording - no cliches!
- Don't use absolutes ("all," "everyone," "never," etc.)



Thematic Statement

- *Ex. Hamlet*
 - Choose an important idea that resonates with you
 - Important Idea: Thinking
 - Thematic Statement: Overthinking something can make a person avoid taking action.



Connect Thematic Statement to Development

- *Ex. Hamlet*
 - Thematic Statement: Overthinking something can make a person avoid taking action.
 - How it's developed: Hamlet's actions (or rather inaction)



Thesis

- One sentence
- Last sentence of your introduction paragraph
- Includes...
 - Text title (*italicized*)
 - Author's name
 - Thematic statement
 - How it's developed
 - Mention of development
- Template:
 - In [text title], [author's name] demonstrates that [thematic statement] through the development of [how it's developed].



Thesis

- *Ex. Hamlet*
 - Template:
 - In *Hamlet*, William Shakespeare demonstrates that overthinking something can make a person avoid taking action through the development of the main character Hamlet's actions.
 - Beyond the Template:
 - Through the evolution of the title character's actions, William Shakespeare's *Hamlet* suggests that contemplation can paralyze an individual and prevent him from taking action.
 - Play with sentence structure and word choice
 - Include all of the pieces in one sentence