



Thematic Essay Outline

Outline

Theme: _____

Supporting Ideas:

Example 1: _____

Pages for Quotes: _____

Example 2: _____

Pages for Quotes: _____

Example 2: _____

Pages for Quotes: _____

Introduction: Open with a few sentences that relate to your theme. These sentences should convey a general idea about the topic (not a plot summary of the book—they should not include specific details, characters, etc. from the novel). Write a one or two sentence plot overview of the book and close the paragraph with your thesis statement. The thesis statement is where you introduce the theme that you will discuss. Your introduction paragraph also needs to include the title and author of the book. Here's a sample introduction paragraph for Romeo and Juliet

Oftentimes people make hasty decisions. It is human nature to act and to reflect on those actions only afterwards. Rash decisions often have serious, unforeseen consequences. William Shakespeare's tragic love story, Romeo and Juliet, follows the story of two teenagers who fall in love. Their love is forbidden due to a family feud, yet these two characters cannot live without each other. Their hasty decisions have tragic consequences and leave all of Verona in mourning. A central theme in Shakespeare's drama is that people should think carefully before they act.

Body Paragraph 1: Start with a topic sentence that introduces your first example. Provide enough information from the book to convey your idea. Support the idea with details and quote(s) from the book. Explain the significance of the quote(s). End with a closing sentence that helps transition to your second example.

Body Paragraphs 2 & 3: Follow the general format presented above. Start with a transitional phrase and your topic sentence. Support the example with evidence from the text and complete with a closing sentence.

Conclusion: Open the paragraph by restating the main point of your essay (your thesis statement—discussion of theme). Write one sentence for each body paragraph capturing the general idea of the paragraph. Close with a deep thought—a takeaway message or lesson about the theme.