

## How to Write a Thematic Essay

- Collect ideas about the themes in a text.
  - Name a central problem or issue that characters in the story face.
  - Reflect on parts of the story that pertain to this problem.
  - Think to yourself, "What is this story teaching me about this problem, this issue?"
  - Write long about your thinking to grow your ideas, perhaps by asking how different characters relate to that issue.
- Go back to the text and reread closely to see how the theme works in certain critical scenes.
- Look for purposeful craft moves the author used and think about how they reveal more about the theme.
- Write a claim and a plan for your essay and use a mentor text to begin drafting.
- Search for places where your writing isn't working and do what's necessary to fix it.
- Logically explain how your evidence supports your thinking about the text.
- Add writing that addresses alternative ideas to yours, being sure to show how your thinking is better.