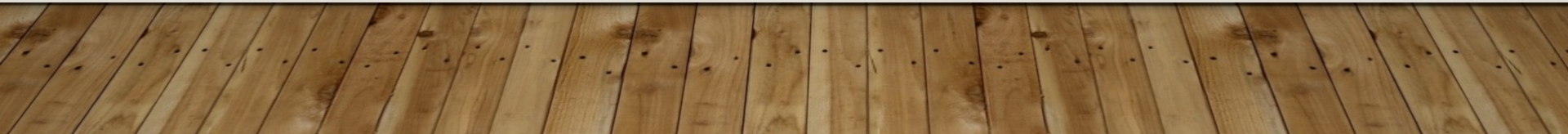


THESIS STATEMENTS, TOPIC SENTENCES, & QUOTE INTEGRATION

WRITER'S WORKSHOP #4



WHAT IS A THESIS STATEMENT?

- The thesis is a one-sentence summary of your argument.
- It should be ARGUABLE (which means someone could disagree with your thesis!)
- It should clearly address all parts of the essay prompt.
- You must be able to PROVE your thesis with support from the text or outside research.

QUESTIONS TO ASK ABOUT YOUR THESIS:

- Have I said something specific and meaningful?
- Is it specific enough to write about in the required number of pages? Or would someone have to write a book (or a set of encyclopedias) to fully support my thesis?
- Have I said something arguable? What's the point if everyone will agree with you or if everyone already knows this?
- Can I support my thesis? Can I think of specific examples and evidence? Does every point I bring up support my thesis or do I need to revise my thesis statement?

THESIS EXAMPLES: WHICH IS BETTER? WHY?

- Thesis #1:
 - **World War II was a costly war that had a major impact on the economy of the United States**
- Thesis #2:
 - **World War II negatively impacted the economy of the United States and altered the role of the American government and the American people forever.**

EXAMPLE THESIS STATEMENTS

- Prompt = Edwards' sermon entitled, "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God" takes a harsh, yet realistic approach to evangelism. Especially in today's society, is this type of approach helpful? Harmful? Is it necessary?

GOOD OR BAD? WHY?

- Jonathan Edwards' "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God" is good, even with all of the strong language, the serious tone, and the frightening imagery.

GOOD OR BAD? WHY?

- Written by Jonathan Edwards, “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God” describes the consequences of sin.

GOOD OR BAD? WHY?

- Johnathan Ewdards yells at his congregation and unfairly judges them for their sins which is not helpful to them and makes them want to leave the church.

GOOD OR BAD? WHY?

- Jonathan Edwards' method for evangelism, though heavy in content, portrays a clear and effective picture of how God views sin and the consequences for unrepentance.

TOPIC SENTENCES

- Must directly support the thesis
- Must be persuasive
- Should not be a question.
- Should not be a direct quote.
- Should not be a statement of fact.

QUOTE INTEGRATION

HOW TO PROPERLY INTEGRATE QUOTES INTO AN ESSAY

WHAT NOT TO DO:

- Never DROP a quote into your writing – always integrate quotations
- In other words, a quote should not stand alone as its own sentence, you must use your own words to introduce it.

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO:

- Choose the most important part of the quote.
- Make sure the quote fits grammatically within your sentence.
- Use an ellipses as needed to omit unnecessary parts of the quote.
- Use brackets [] to add or change words.

EXAMPLES:

- Drop quote (bad example): Boo Radley scares the children of Maycomb. “Boo was about six-and-a-half feet tall, judging from his tracks; he dined on raw squirrels and any cats he could catch” (Lee 45).
- Properly integrated quote (good example): The children of Maycomb fear Boo Radley because he “was about six-and-a-half feet tall... [and] dined on raw squirrels” (Lee 45).

THE QUOTE “SANDWICH”

- Each integrated quote should use the quote sandwich (named because you are “sandwiching” the quote with your own words):
 - **Quote intro:** provide context, signal quote is coming
 - **Quote:** choose only important parts of quote that prove your point
 - **Commentary:** explain how the quote helps prove your topic sentence/thesis
 - **In-text citation:** give credit to the author

INTEGRATION PATTERNS:

- **Pattern #1: An introducing clause plus the quotation:**

Gatsby should not be regarded as a personal failure *because* "Gatsby turned out all right at the end" (Fitzgerald 176).

- **Pattern #2: An assertion of your own and a colon plus the quotation:**

Fitzgerald gives Nick a muted tribute to the hero: "Gatsby turned out all right at the end" (Fitzgerald 176). **This works best if your quotation is a complete clause

- **Pattern #3: An assertion of your own with quoted material worked in:**

For Nick, who remarks that Gatsby "turned out all right", the hero deserves respect but perhaps does not inspire great admiration (Fitzgerald 176). **This works best when you pull only power words from the quotation.

