

Organizer for Theme Analysis Essay

Introductory Paragraph:

- Title, genre, author and brief (1-2 sentences) summary of first selection.
- Title, genre, author and brief (1-2 sentences) summary of second selection
- Thesis statement (central idea of the essay). What is the common theme in both selections?

Body paragraphs:

- Discuss the first selection (fiction). Don't retell the story, instead explain what the theme is, providing examples from the text. You may end up retelling part of the story, but the summary should not overpower the narration.
- Use your note-taking organizer to help you with this task. Use the quotes in your organizer regarding theme. (1 or more paragraphs).
- Discuss the second selection (non-fiction). Don't summarize the whole article; rather explain how the theme is made clear through the words, the tone and attitude of the author.
- Provide textual references and examples, and use your note-taking organizer for the task. (1 or more paragraphs)

Concluding paragraph:

- Restate your thesis statement and summarize the main points of your essay, perhaps providing a comparison between the two texts. For example, although the underlying theme is the same for both selections, the theme is addressed very differently in each one.
- You may include a personal reflection or connection to the readings.

Guiding Questions

Some guiding questions that may help you with the body paragraph that examines the **fiction** piece are: How does the plot support the theme? What happens in the story that reveals the theme? What elements does the author use to reveal the theme? What role does figurative language and strong imagery play in the revealing of the theme?

Guiding questions for the **non fiction** piece: How does the author reveal the theme? Is it stated anywhere in the article? What elements help to reveal the theme? (For example, the direct statements of the author, his opinions, his tone, or his attitude).