

The Kite Runner Theme Essay Outline/Rough Draft

Our goal in this outline is to focus on developing the BODY of your paper. We will focus on the lead paragraph and conclusion after this assignment.

Starting Your Outline:

At the top of your paper, write down your theme statement. This will be your working thesis (what your essay will be arguing or proving).

Body Paragraphs Focus

- Since this is a theme essay, you will trace how your theme develops throughout the novel:
 - **Body Paragraph one** will give examples of where this theme **emerges**.
 - **Body Paragraphs two through ?** will give examples of where this theme **develops and/or continues to grow**
 - **The last body paragraph** will give examples of the ultimate **resolution** of your theme.

Body Paragraph 1 Brainstorming

- Think about how this theme **emerges**. Where in the novel is the genesis or starting point of your theme statement?
- Look through your thematic study notes and circle or **highlight two quotes that you think show where your theme emerges**. (If you don't have one or two, find a quote in the book!)
- These quotes will probably come from the beginning section of the novel.
- Do not write the quotes on your rough draft yet!

Writing Your Body Paragraph 1

1. Write your topic sentence: In *The Kite Runner*, the theme topic of _____ emerges in the beginning of the novel.
2. Give short summary or context of quote to set up the quote.
Ex: One way readers see this theme emerge is when...
3. Write down your quote and cite it correctly. Refer to sandwich notes. (Author's Last Name Page Number)
4. Explain why you think this quote shows the emergence of your theme statement. This is the most important part of your paragraph!
5. Repeat number 2, 3, and 4 for second quote.
****Remember to use transitional words separate your two quotes!
6. Conclusion sentence

Body Paragraph 2-?

Brainstorming

- Think about how this theme **continues to develop or grow**. Where in the novel are examples that demonstrate a continued connection to this theme?
- Look through your thematic study notes and circle or **highlight two quotes that you think show where your theme develops or grows**. (If you don't have one or two, find a quote in the book!)
- These quotes will probably come from the middle section of the novel.

Writing Your Body Paragraphs 2-?

1. Write your topic sentence: In *The Kite Runner*, the theme topic of _____ continues to develop as the plot progresses.
2. Give short summary or context of quote to set up the quote.
Ex: One way readers see this theme continue is when...
3. Write down your quote and cite it correctly. Refer to sandwich notes.
(Author's Last Name Page Number)
4. Explain why you think this quote shows development and/or continuation your theme statement. This is the most important part of your paragraph!
5. Repeat number 2, 3, and 4 for second quote.
****Remember to use transitional words separate your two quotes!
6. Conclusion sentence
7. Repeat those steps for other body paragraphs about development of the theme.

Last Body Paragraph Brainstorming

- Think about how this theme **resolves itself**.
Where in the novel is the resolution of your theme statement? Why is it there?
- Look through your thematic study notes and circle or **highlight two quotes that you think show where your theme resolves itself**. (If you don't have one or two, find a quote in the book!)
- These quotes will probably come from the end of the novel.

Writing Your Final Body Paragraph

1. Write your topic sentence: In *The Kite Runner*, the theme topic of _____ resolves itself in the novel's ending.

2. Give short summary or context of quote to set up the quote.

Ex: One way readers see this theme resolve is when...

3. Write down your quote and cite it correctly. Refer to sandwich notes. (Author's Last Name Page Number)

4. Explain why you think this quote shows the resolution of your theme statement. This is the most important part of your paragraph!

5. Repeat number 2, 3, and 4 for second quote.

****Remember to use transitional words separate your two quotes!

6. Conclusion sentence

Lead Paragraph

- After writing the three body paragraphs, we will go back to the beginning of your essay and write the lead paragraph.
- The lead paragraph has four parts:
 - Universal Topic or Idea
 - Context of Work
 - Lead into thesis
 - Thesis (Theme Statement)

Lead Paragraph

- Universal Topic or Idea:
 - This is where you introduce the idea of your **theme topic**
- Context of Work:
 - Give a **short 1-3 sentence summary** of the work
- Lead into thesis:
 - **Set your thesis up.** Connect your topic and the work you are writing about.
- Thesis:
 - This is your developed version of the **theme statement**. We will revise it on a later slide.

Example Lead Paragraph

Society finds it odd when someone purposefully chooses to isolate himself, yet one of America's most infamous literary works is an account of self-imposed seclusion. Henry David Thoreau writes about his experience with nature in his autobiographical narrative *Walden; or Life in the Woods*. True to the ideas of Transcendentalism, Thoreau's experiment at Walden Pond emphasizes the importance of self and champions individual freedom through a detailed description mainly about his experience alone with nature. In *Walden* Henry David Thoreau, uses the author's experience of isolation in the woods to reveal a relational and interactive text in both form and content.

Theme Thesis Statement

- Remember--a theme statement is a sentence that **argues** a point about how you see the theme topic throughout the story.
- It presents a universal idea. This means that the idea applies to life beyond the characters.
- You can use one of these formulas to create a sophisticated and smart theme statement. You may also create your own.
- In _____ (title)
_____ (author) uses
_____ (concrete issue or larger concrete
idea in book) to reveal
_____ (abstract/theme).

Other Possible Formulas

- In _____ (title)
_____ (author) develops
_____ (topic) to reveal
_____ (theme).
- Although _____ (general
statement), _____ (author) uses
_____ (topic OR device) to evince/to
prove/etc. the theme _____
_____ .

Theme Thesis Statement

- Look at all of your quotes. Is there a common idea or a thread that they share?
- This should be something **concrete** from the novel. This is something the author has written about in the novel directly. This is literal. It is something, some event, some relationship, etc. apparent in the novel.
- Your theme statement will plug itself into the abstract portion of the **thesis statement**. It is called abstract because it is your interpretation of the concrete. This is your opinion of something the author wrote about directly.

Conclusion

- The conclusion should have two parts:
 1. Restate your thesis.
 2. Present a great insight on your topic and theme statement. Think about how this book uses your theme statement to teach its readers about human nature. This is where you leave your reader with a poignant thought.