

Declare a Formal Thesis

At this point you should be narrowing down possible topics for a final research paper.

- On Friday, March 26 turn in your preliminary thesis statement for a grade.
- Make sure it follows the standard MLA guidelines for presentation purposes.
- Remember: topic + fact + observation= thesis statement.
- It is important these show specific details; you are formally declaring the direction your paper will head.

THESIS POSSIBILITIES

Below are sample thesis paper topics. Choose one as a focus for your paper, manipulating the observations to suit your purposes. *Find critical sources supporting your observations on the texts.*

1. Analyze the victims in the following stories: Jane in “The Yellow Wallpaper,” the Princess in “The Goosegirl,” and Homer in “A Rose for Emily.”
Each character is placed in similar situations of passivity with widely-differing results. Form an opinion regarding the various actions and motivations of the *female* characters.
2. Analyze Ray Bradbury’s “The October Game” with E. Poe’s “The Black Cat.”
Consider how Bradbury successful mirrors his techniques for his own modern protagonist. Consider Poe’s primary goal in the story: is he seeking to generate a Gothic tale or focus on the psychological development of the narrator?
Form an opinion regarding the actions and motivations of the narrators.
3. Analyze Nathaniel Hawthorne’s character Beatrice in “Rappaccini’s Daughter” with James Joyce’s protagonist in “Eveline.” What similar or dissimilar techniques do the authors use to motivate their female protagonists? Form an opinion regarding the passive actions and motivations of the main characters.
Consider Hawthorne’s “The Birthmark” for additional material.
4. Free-for-all: Compose your own thesis statement regarding character actions and motivations from supplied list of authors. (You must include an additional outside short story reading from one source.)