

How to Write a Theme Statement

(...and not just a theme topic!)

1. Understand that a theme topic is NOT a theme statement.

Examples of Theme Topics: Love, Justice/Injustice, Family, Struggle, the American Dream, Wealth, Inhumanity

Examples of Themes: People risk their own identity to find love; Power corrupts humanity; Without empathy, there can be no justice.

2. Create a list of theme topics that can be supported with evidence from the text and choose ONE topic that is best demonstrated by the text.

Hint: The great thing about theme is that there can be multiple theme topics that can be supported by the evidence.

3. Write a sentence about what the author believes about that topic.

Example: In *Finding Nemo*, the author believes that a person should learn how to trust themselves and others.

Hint: Don't use character names or specific details...keep it universal by using "a person" or "one" instead!

Hint: Don't be too vague! "Family is important" is not a theme statement, but "One should put family before all others" is a theme statement.

4. Cross out "the author believes that" and revise the sentence.

Example: In *Finding Nemo*, ~~the author believes that~~ a person should learn how to trust themselves and others.

Theme Statement: A person should learn how to trust themselves and others.