

Theme with Supporting Detail Assignment

Instructions

- ▶ Read the Amy Tan story "A Pair of Tickets."
- ▶ Read the Instructor Notes: What is a Theme?
- ▶ Determine one theme for the reading.
 - Phrase your theme as a complete sentence that has a subject and verb and makes sense by itself.
 - Do not submit a topic/thematic category (a vague one-word idea).
- ▶ Find 4 details/examples/places in the reading that support that theme.
- ▶ In Microsoft Word, use MLA formatting to create the document.
 - See details below for how to complete and format this assignment.
- ▶ Upload the document into the Theme with Supporting Detail Submission Box.

This assignment counts as an assignment (not as an essay) grade for this course.

How to Complete & Format the Theme with Supporting Detail Assignment

- ▶ Use MLA formatting for a document:
 - Times New Roman 12-point font for all text, including header and title.
 - Header of last name and page number in top right corner header space.
 - Four lines of contact information left-aligned on first four lines.
 - Title centered in title case.
 - Entire document double-spaced.
- ▶ Use headings and bullets for information. See example at end of document.
 - Five headings should be...
 - Theme
 - Supporting Detail 1
 - Supporting Detail 2
 - Supporting Detail 3
 - Supporting Detail 4
- ▶ Write the theme as a complete sentence.
- ▶ Each of the 4 supporting details should include 2 bullets...
 - Brief description/summary of supporting detail in your own words, which does NOT have to be in a complete sentence.
 - Direct quote from story related to this supporting detail with the page number where the direct quote can be found.

- ▶ Page number with direct quote should...
 - Come directly after the direct quote.
 - Be enclosed within parentheses.
 - Include a period after the closing parenthesis.
- ▶ Remember that supporting details can include...
 - Character.
 - Dialogue.
 - Plot/Events/Action/Conflict.
 - Setting.
 - Description.
 - Other elements mentioned in the Instructor Notes on What We Write about When We Write about Literature.

Note: You do NOT have to use the direct quotation in the essay, but this exercise asks for it so you will know exactly where your supporting detail is and what it says.

You can see from the Sample Student Essay that sometimes the description of the story detail is used, and other times the direct quotation from the story is used.

Example & Using the Sample Student Essay

The next pages of this document show examples of this assignment:

- General format.
- Completed example based on the Sample Student Essay.

The Sample Student Essay is found in the Unit 2 ▶ Writing about What We Read folder. It analyzes the Ernest Hemingway short story “The End of Something” (the text of this story is also included in the Unit 2 folder).

The thesis or claim for the Sample Student Essay is that the setting of the short story underscores the theme, a kind of premise that is a bit different from the kind of essay you are being asked to write.

Therefore, you will see that the completed example uses the heading *Thesis* instead of *Theme* in the first example.

- ▶ Use the heading *Theme* for your assignment.

Note: Do not italicize your heading. The word is italicized here because it is being singled out, and using italics is one way to format singled-out words/phrases.

Even though the premise of the Sample Student Essay is not exactly the same as yours, the kind of analysis and support in the sample essay makes it a good example for this unit because you can clearly see how certain rhetorical elements (description, dialogue, events, etc.,) are used to support a claim.

Firstname Lastname

Instructor Name

ENG 111

Date

General Example of Theme with Supporting Detail

Theme:

Love hurts.

Supporting Detail 1:

- Brief description in your own words.
- “direct quotation from story” (#).

Supporting Detail 2:

- Brief description in your own words.
- “direct quotation from story” (#).

Supporting Detail 3:

- Brief description in your own words.
- “direct quotation from story” (#).

Supporting Detail 4:

- Brief description in your own words.
- “direct quotation from story” (#).

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Completed Example of Theme with Supporting Detail

Thesis:

The description of Hortons Bay symbolizes Nick and Marjorie's relationship as well as initiates the sense of loss expressed throughout the story.

Supporting Detail 1:

- Hortons Bay used to be a booming mill town but at time of story has fallen into disrepair.
- "broken white limestone...showing through the swampy second growth" (107).

Supporting Detail 2:

- The edifice of the ruin is an obvious symbol of Marjorie and Nick's love because, although the mill is crumbled and unproductive, part of it still remains, and the memories of its booming days will not be forgotten, as when Marjorie asks Nick if he can think back on the days when the mill was active.
- "just remember" (108).

Supporting Detail 3:

- The mill's setting establishes the possibility of comparison analogous to that of a teacher-student relationship with Marjorie representing the mill workers since she has learned a lot from Nick.
- "taught her everything" (110).

Supporting Detail 4:

- With the description of Hortons Bay, Hemingway establishes the general sense of loss and sets the mood for ending Nick and Marjorie's relationship, which is typified when Marjorie rows away in the boat and Nick no longer has her physical presence.
- "She was afloat in the boat on the water" (111).