

### **A Tale of Two Cities - Thesis Development & Revision**

After our review of the steps to develop a thesis, you wrote a rough draft of a thesis statement for your paper. Once you have this draft, you will work with a partner (hopefully two!) to get some feedback on your ideas so that you can work toward a more defined thesis. Go section-by-section and follow the directions. At the end, you will upload your work to Turnitin. This is due by the beginning of our next class.

#### **I. YOUR WORK**

Name of Writer: \_\_\_\_\_

After working through steps on the thesis development handout, you have a working thesis statement. Type your working thesis here:

Once you finish typing your working thesis, I will assign you a partner. S/he will complete section II before you complete section III.

#### **II. PEER REVIEW**

Name of Reviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

##### **TOPIC**

1. Looking at the working thesis provided in Section I, what do you see as the TOPIC / FACT of this working thesis? Name it here:

##### **OPINION**

1. Once again, look at the working thesis from Section I. What do you see as the OPINION of this working thesis? Name it here:
2. The goal of the OPINION contained in the thesis is to make the thesis DEBATABLE. *This goes beyond pointing to a fact from the plot and into a larger message about the topic.* Looking at the opinion, does it present an original idea? Can it be argued or does it tend towards describing something in the text (making a general observation)? Write 4-5 sentences providing some feedback regarding the opinion portion of the thesis statement.

### WHY/SO WHAT/BECAUSE

1. For the final portion of the thesis, look at Section 1 of this handout and name the WHY/SO WHAT/BECAUSE that you see. Type it here:
2. Since the word “compelling” is defined as, “evoking interest, attention, or admiration in a powerfully irresistible way” (*New Oxford American Dictionary*), we can understand this to mean it goes beyond stating general statements or observations and gets into complex ideas. Does your partner’s thesis get beyond the statement of the opinion and explore the topic in depth? Does it capture your interest? What will s/he prove and how is it compelling? Write 2-3 sentences providing some feedback regarding this portion of the thesis statement.

### GENERAL COMMENTS

1. Does the thesis have a clear focus and does it convey the argument in a concise manner?
2. Of course you also read this book and have some ideas about it. Here are some other questions I asked everyone to consider in developing their thesis. Do any of these questions apply here? Are there things this thesis leaves you wondering about?
  - Is this change gradual or instantaneous?
  - Is this change made by choice, or do outside forces cause it to happen?
  - Do other characters perceive this change?
  - Are there characters / events this change does not impact?
3. What other advice to you have for the writer? (Respond with 2-3 sentences)

Once you finish with Section II of this handout, you should notify your partner so that s/he can review your feedback. Be prepared to explain your responses and/or to clarify any feedback. Remember, your goal is to help the writer as much as possible!

### III. REVISION

After your partner completes Section II, you should review her/his responses and complete these steps.

1. What did your partner say about your TOPIC? Make 1 note based on the feedback you see.
  - a. Note #1:
2. What did your partner say about your OPINION? Make 2 notes based on the feedback you see.
  - a. Note #1:
  - b. Note #2:
3. What did your partner say about your WHY/SO WHAT/BECAUSE? Make 2 notes based on the feedback you see.
  - a. Note #1:
  - b. Note #2:
4. Reviewing all of these notes, what are THREE things you need to do to revise your thesis statement? List them here:
  - a. Revision Idea #1:
  - b. Revision Idea #2:
  - c. Revision Idea #3:
5. After naming these three things, work to revise your working thesis. Once finished with your revision, write your REVISED THESIS STATEMENT here:
6. Explain in 4-5 sentences HOW you addressed the three things you needed to do to revise your work. That is, how does your revised thesis in #5 reflect the work you did to address the things listed in #4?

When finished with your work, submit your work to [Turnitin](#). ALL SECTIONS of the handout must be completed FULLY in order for you to earn credit for coming to class prepared.