

The Outsiders and A Long Way Down

Having read two books, written in different centuries, about gang violence, poverty, and the life of teenagers, do you think that teenagers in gangs are fundamentally the same or not? If they are, use both novels to demonstrate that point. If you think they are fundamentally different, then you'll create an argument using both novels to support your thesis. If you think some things are the same, you can state that as well.

*You may need a semicolon. Semicolons combine two independent clauses (sentences) with a semicolon and a connecting word.

SENTENCE / SEMICOLON / COMMA/ CONNECTING WORD/ SENTENCE

See my example below.

The thesis needs to include:

The names of the books and the authors

The three paths of your argument (violence, poverty, life of teens)

Your opinion of whether teens in gangs are fundamentally the same or different.

*You can choose three different areas to compare, but you must answer the question “Are teens in gangs in the 1950s and 2020s fundamentally the same or different?”

Example structure:

John Irving’s *A Prayer for Owen Meany* and Becky Albertalli’s *Love, Simon* both explore the politics of small-town life, teen sexuality, and friendship; however, Albertalli’s *Love, Simon* makes a stronger negative statement about small-town politics, is overt about Simon’s homosexuality instead of hinting at it, and places less emphasis on the friendships in comparison to Irving’s *A Prayer for Owen Meany*.

Write your thesis below. You will need to have it approved before you begin writing your essay.