

Agenda:

Thesis workshop Part 1- Get ready!

Read and annotate the Cisneros passage...class discussion...

Homework: Read your selected novel!

Read the passage:

Pay attention to what the author is doing.

What do you notice? Write everything on your paper.

Repetitions? Where and what? Ask WHY? For what purpose?

Motifs? What are they? Ask WHY?

What else?

Don't forget: what is the whole purpose of the passage? What is the meaning? How do the things you noticed (above) contribute to the meaning?

1995 Read the following short story carefully. Then write an essay analyzing how the author, Sandra Cisneros, uses literary techniques to characterize Rachel.

Finding the right language:

What does the author do?

What devices/techniques does the author use?

What patterns do you find in this piece of literature?

What themes did you identify?

What universal connections do you make with the ideas presented?

What makes a strong thesis?

- A thesis is the result of spending time thinking.
- Formulating a thesis is NOT the first thing you do after reading an essay assignment. You must read, re-read, and DIGEST the reading first.
- Before you develop an argument on any topic, you have to collect and organize evidence, look for possible relationships between known facts (such as surprising contrasts or similarities), and think about the significance of these relationships.

I am writing about:

I am going to argue, show or prove:

In Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*, the author uses techniques of comedy to reflect the major themes of the play. The implementation of epigrams/aphorisms, inverted logic, and deus ex machina develop themes of hypocrisy and reverse gender roles which resemble Wilde's personal philosophy. Wilde's views on formal education, marriage and gender create the personalities of the characters and events of the play.

What suggestions would you give to make this stronger?

From childhood, all children are told lying is wrong, yet as they become adults they tend to be deceitful more often than not. In the play by Oscar Wilde, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, the matter of lying is a main thematic topic. The play explores the freedom and consequences that can come from excessive lying. It is seen throughout the play that the importance of *not* being earnest leads to the achievement that each character is looking for.

What suggestions would you give to make this stronger?

One of the themes in *The Importance of Being Earnest* is disdain for marriage. Marriage was seen as a way to become wealthier. People did not marry for love. A lot of marriages were arranged by parents. For example, Lady Bracknell married well, and she wants the same for her daughter. It is her goal to find her daughter a rich husband. People of the upper class followed the social norm because they wanted to keep their high status. They would never marry someone that would lower their social status and is not wealthy.

What suggestions would you give to make this stronger?

The Importance of Being Earnest harbors a blaring and defining irony - the importance of *not* being Earnest. In Wilde's hysterical satire, he utilizes this theme to engage a rapid slippery slope of lies and deceit - a modern comedy of errors. Characters Algernon and Jack frantically attempt to navigate the web of their own lies, though, from the outside, it's their facade that ultimately gives the most insight into the depths of their characters.

What suggestions would you give to make this stronger?

In *The Importance of Being Earnest*, by Oscar Wilde, satire plays a large role in the making of the themes. Wilde also uses writing techniques to better convey the themes throughout the play. Many people believe the opinions stated are that of Oscar Wilde. An important theme in *The Importance of Being Earnest* is the fluctuating morals or morality conveyed through the use of puns and exaggeration.

What suggestions would you give to make this stronger?

Oscar Wilde stood at the end of the nineteenth century and jeered at the Victorian Age. He ridiculed Victorian values in the *Importance of Being Earnest*. Turning on the play of words in the title, the drama satirizes the very idea of earnestness, a virtue to which the Victorians attached the utmost significance. To work hard, to be sincere, frank, open, and to live life earnestly was the Victorian ideal. Wilde not only satirizes hypocrisy and sham virtues. *The Importance of Being Earnest* also uses unusual situations and striking puns to produce a humor that would be enjoyed by everyone.

What suggestions would you give to make this stronger?

Writing the Intro Paragraph:

A funnel opening can really help you because it allows you to take control of the reader right away.

Start with a generalized statement - if you have time to write, start with a statement that seems far afield.

Then, narrow your topic with each following sentence.

In the fifth or seventh sentence, directly state your thesis - for these AO essay questions, answer the prompt specifically. (Do not repeat the prompt.)

Thank you, Mr. Noland for your advice!

