**Thesis, Writer’s Choices, and Topic Sentence Development**

What is your **topic**? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Which **literary terms**/concepts relate to your topic? (circle them)

* Symbolism
* Tone/Diction
* Atmosphere/Mood
* Narrative Point-of-View
* Imagery
* Internal/External Conflicts
* Plot (exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, denouement/resolution)
* Theme
* Motif (which may include any literary concept as long as it is reoccurring in the work)
* Irony (verbal, situational, dramatic)
* Setting
* Style
* Structure/Organization/Progression
* Figurative Language

What is your **opinion** about this topic? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

How will you **support** your opinion? Which scenes or examples provide the best evidence?

1. Page #
2. Page #
3. Page #

**Write your thesis statement** in one or two sentences. To make your thesis argumentative, try using a concession clause like “Despite…” or “Although…” to begin your thesis statement. Or, try using a correlative conjunction like “Not only…, but also…” to develop more than one idea.

Thesis Statement: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**Developing Topic Sentences**

Like your thesis statement, a good topic sentence provides a topic and opinion. Look at these examples.

(just a fact) The mute girl listens to Kien and is unable to respond to his drunken tirades.

(topic and opinion) The mute girl not only represents Kien’s subconscious, but also his opportunity for redemption.

(just a fact) In one important scene, Kien rests in a hammock, swinging gently above rows of corpses.

(topic and opinion) Kien’s traumatic memories of war and his unrealized romantic love imprison him.

**Writer’s Choices**

Writing about the author requires three things: 1. A sentence which begins with the author 2. An observation of a choice that was made 3. An evaluation of that choice (which may include appreciation)

Example 1: Bao Ninh developed imagery of flowing water to create a liminal space between the living and the dead.

Example 2: Ninh’s use of the stream running through the Jungle of Screaming Souls develops the idea of the jungle as both a place to die and a place for the living to visit the dead.

**Writing Body Paragraphs**

Using either a topic sentence about the author or about a literary concept, develop several topic sentences here:

T.S. about the author’s choice: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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T.S. about a literary concept: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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