

## THESIS REVIEW AND REVISION

**Directions:** Read each thesis statement. Then, identify the subject/topic, the attitude/argument, and three areas of focus.

**Example:** In his book *The Catcher in the Rye*, J.D. Salinger conveys the message that hypocrisy is an inescapable presence in all of humanity. This theme is portrayed through Holden's interactions with others, his own reflections on himself, and in his obsession with innocence.

**What is the subject/topic?** Hypocrisy

**What is the attitude/argument?** Hypocrisy is an inescapable presence in all of humanity

**Focus 1 (F1)** – Holden's interactions with others

**Focus 2 (F2)** – Holden's reflections on himself

**Focus 3 (F3)** – Holden's obsession with innocence

**Does this thesis statement need to be rewritten? If so, rewrite it here:**

Possible rewrite #1: *The Catcher in the Rye* reveals the theme that hypocrisy is an inescapable presence in all of humanity through Holden's interactions with others, reflections on himself, and his obsession with innocence.

Possible rewrite #2: Holden Caulfield's interactions with others, reflections on himself, and his obsession with innocence reveal that hypocrisy is an inescapable presence in all of humanity.

**On your own,** identify the subject/topic, attitude/argument, and three areas of focus in the following thesis statements written by your peers. Then, rewrite the thesis statement so it is clear and contains each of the three elements.

1. In Salinger's novel *The Catcher in the Rye*, he conveys that alienation is in full affect during adolescence. Alienation is fully present when Holden interacts with adults, people his own age, and even children

**What is the subject/topic?** Alienation

**What is the attitude/argument?** Alienation is in full affect during adolescence

**F1** – Interactions with adults

**F2** - peers

**F3** - children

**Does this thesis statement need to be rewritten? If so, rewrite it here:**

**Rewrite #1:** In Salinger's novel *The Catcher in the Rye*, he conveys that alienation is an inescapable presence during adolescence. Alienation is fully present when Holden interacts with adults, people his own age, and even children.

**Rewrite #2:** In *The Catcher in the Rye*, J.D. Salinger expresses that alienation is an inescapable aspect of adolescent life by showing Holden's interactions with adults, his peers, and children.

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2. Salinger shows that Holden's alienation is a frightening, lonely, and depressing corner of the world that only some people get a glimpse of through self-reflection, his interactions with the world around him, and his immaturity.

**What is the subject/topic?** Alienation

**What is the attitude/argument?** Alienation is a frightening, lonely, and depressing corner of the world

**F1** – self reflection

**F2** – interactions with the world around him

**F3** – his immaturity

Does this thesis statement need to be rewritten? If so, rewrite it here:

**Rewrite #1:** Through his own self-reflection, his interactions with the world around him, and his immaturity Holden shows readers that alienation is a frightening, lonely, and depressing experience for teenagers.

**Rewrite #2:**

3. In the book *The Catcher in the Rye*, J.D. Salinger shows a message that everyone is both real and superficial. This is conveyed through Holden's actions, his friends and family's actions, and the effects of those actions.

**What is the subject/topic?** Real vs superficial

**What is the attitude/argument?** Everyone is both real and superficial

**F1** - Holden's actions

**F2**- Holden's friends and family's actions

**F3** – The effects of those actions

**Does this thesis statement need to be rewritten? If so, rewrite it here:**

**Rewrite #1:** Everyone is real and phony at the same time making it difficult for person to decide what is important and who, even one's self, can be trusted.

4. Anger should not control you when it is with your peers, adults, and children.

**What is the subject/topic?** Anger

**What is the attitude/argument?** Missing

**Three areas of focus:** peers, adults, children.

**Does this thesis statement need to be rewritten? If so, rewrite it here:**

**Rewrite #1:** Anger should not control one's life and you should not express that anger towards your peers, adults, and children.

5. Write down your thesis statement. Then identify the subject/topic, the attitude/argument, and the three areas of focus. Then, rewrite your thesis statement.