

Sample Theses from FL 222

Name: _____

Please rate the following theses as 0 (not a thesis), 1 (a thesis but not a good one), or 2 (a good thesis). Use any number from 0 to 2 (you might rate a thesis as a 1.7). Underneath each thesis, indicate at least two of the [9 Universal Intellectual Standards](#) that are most **present** or **absent** in the thesis statement with a *check mark* for **present** or *X* for **absent**.

“A thesis is not a topic; nor is it a fact; nor is it an opinion.” So what is it? An argument that shows reflective thinking: **"revealing a problem whose resolution is not obvious"**. It should tell what you plan to argue, and it should 'telegraph' how you plan to argue."

____ 1. The protagonists in *Madame Bovary* and "The Death of Ivan Ilyich" are driven by selfishness in search of money, power, and recognition, and this very search destroys them.

clarity____ accuracy____ precision ____ relevance____ depth____ breadth ____ logic ____

____ 2. In order to fully appreciate Western literature, one must have a basic understanding of the Bible.

clarity____ accuracy____ precision ____ relevance____ depth____ breadth ____ logic ____

____ 3. What I am going to examine is the similarities and differences in the motif of the quest in "Candide" and "The Queen of Spades."

clarity____ accuracy____ precision ____ relevance____ depth____ breadth ____ logic ____

____ 4. While realist writing is bogged down by description and details, romantic works contain the essence of simplicity and true beauty which ultimately readers prefer.

clarity____ accuracy____ precision ____ relevance____ depth____ breadth ____ logic ____

____ 5. Emma and Cunégonde show that without high social class and wealth, women cannot become happy or successful.

clarity____ accuracy____ precision ____ relevance____ depth____ breadth ____ logic ____

_____ 6. Men and women that are portrayed in *The Importance of Being Earnest* are more practical in 19th century than the men and women in *Madame Bovary*.

clarity____ accuracy____ precision ____ relevance____ depth____ breadth ____ logic ____

_____ 7. This paper will determine how personifying death can help us understand and confront death by comparing two prominent pieces of literary work throughout the two periods such as Emily Dickinson's poem 712-"Because I Could Not Stop for Death" and Leo Tolstoy's *The Death of Ivan Ilyich*.

clarity____ accuracy____ precision ____ relevance____ depth____ breadth ____ logic ____

_____ 8. Emma Bovary in *Madame Bovary* and Hermann the German in "The Queen of Spades" are each affected differently by greed, but both characters are used to warn readers that avariciousness can lead to human downfall.

clarity____ accuracy____ precision ____ relevance____ depth____ breadth ____ logic ____

_____ 9. The consequences that Candide and Emma endure because of their unrealistic expectations of love, suggest that in order for one to be truly happy one must live according to his/her authentic reality and not in a fanciful dream.

clarity____ accuracy____ precision ____ relevance____ depth____ breadth ____ logic ____

_____ 10. While work is important in people's lives, "The Death of Ivan Ilyich" and "Click" show that choosing work and neglecting family ultimately leads to unhappiness.

clarity____ accuracy____ precision ____ relevance____ depth____ breadth ____ logic ____