



THEME

A theme is a universal idea, lesson, or message explored throughout a work of literature.

Example:

La letteratura di fronte al progresso della scienza e della tecnica. Il candidato/La candidata, facendo riferimento ad alcuni testi letterari di sua conoscenza, esamini il tema in un elaborato di 300 parole in lingua inglese e un elaborato di 200 parole in francese.

PROCEDURE

When you are assigned a THEME you should first make a distinction between

- Concept or Topic
- Statements.

The concept is the broader TOPIC a theme deals with (death, nature, science). What a work of literature says about that topic suggests a point of view on that specific topic. This is the “thematic statement” on that specific concept or topic.

In the example given the topic is SCIENCE and TECHNOLOGICAL PROGRESS. According to the work or the author you choose, your thematic statement could imply a positive or a negative attitude to the topic given

Example:

Machinery and factory production were seen as embodying the evils of the age by some of Dickens's contemporaries. Dickens, instead, illustrated how technology could help to magnify human power, how it enhanced and provoked dreams and wonder.

STEP 1

Given a concept choose an author and at least two different statements he made about that topic or two texts from two different authors and choose, for each text, a specific statement you want to use to illustrate a specific point of view on the topic chosen.

STEP 2

Illustrate the point of view you have chosen using the following aspects of any text:

- A) plot
- B) the protagonist(s)
- C) symbols or images



STEP 3

Use the **I.D.E.A. procedure** to give your essay a personal touch: how you identify and interpret a theme is a very personal and subjective process.

I.D.E.A. PROCEDURE

I identify → **D** describe → **E** explain → **A** (re)act

Example:

'Literature is about telling stories. Now, the gift of literature is that, in some lucky cases, reading a novel or a story makes the reader more curious, more open-minded.' (Amos Oz).

Discuss the quotation in a 300-word essay. Support your ideas by referring to your personal experience with literature and reading books.

WRITING STRATEGIES

An agree/disagree essay

Carefully read the question and before starting to write, decide on your point of view. You need to say how much you agree or disagree with the idea.

Make your point of view clear in the introduction and conclusion.

Decide how to use your body paragraphs – you can do this in different ways:

Model 1

A I agree/disagree because [one reason the idea is right/wrong]

B I agree/disagree because [another reason the idea is right/wrong]

If this is the approach you choose, make sure you can write two complete paragraphs (with reasons and examples). This approach can be problematic because the two reasons are too similar and the essay looks repetitive.

Model 2

A Explain why the idea is right/wrong [give reasons and examples]

B Explain why the other option is worse/better [give reasons and examples]

This model contains a slight variation of model 1. The main difference is that you look at both sides of the argument.

Model 3

If you have a weaker opinion, use the following model:

A Explain that there are some good points [give reasons and examples]

B Explain that there are some problems too [give reasons and examples]

This approach can be problematic because the point of view is unclear. Make sure that your overall opinion is clear in the introduction and that you start each paragraph with a clear sentence making it obvious that you are either going to write about reasons why you agree or disagree