

ELA 9 PRACTICE WRITING THEME STATEMENTS

The **theme** of a story is a general idea about life or people summed up in just one or two words. A **theme statement** is a full sentence that clearly states how this theme or idea applies to all people. Notice that it is an observation of human behavior. It does NOT mention any particular piece of writing.

Examples:

THEME (General Idea)

Jealousy

Death/Loss

Love

Diversity

THEME STATEMENT (Sentence about human behavior)

Children can be cruel when they are jealous.

People deal with loss in many different ways.

People can do crazy things when they are in love.

Some people want everyone to act the same way.

A literary analysis paragraph/essay starts with a general theme, then applies it to a specific story or prompt. Every paragraph begins with at least two sentences developing a theme. The first sentence is like the theme statements above. The second explains the first a little further.

For example:

THEME	THEME STATEMENTS
Diversity	(1) Some people want everyone to act the same way. (2) They become uncomfortable and even angry when someone does something differently than what they think is right.

DIRECTIONS: Now, you try it. Write at least **two** sentences like the sample above. The first should be a statement about human behavior; the second should explain your idea a little further. Remember, this would be leading to the body of your paragraph:

THEMES	THEME STATEMENTS
Acceptance	
Freedom	
Fear	
Responsibility	
Identity	