

Prompt: Please post your rough draft thesis statements in this forum, as well as a full paragraph that discusses some of the main support for the thesis statement.

To receive a good score, please do not post questions or vague hunches about what you might write about. Although you are not expected to have a "final version" thesis statement, you are expected to have gotten beyond preliminary brainstorming.

Thesis Statement for Essay 03

It looks like I'm more than a little tardy to give and receive helpful feedback for our third paper assignment, but for my essay on poetry I selected Thomas Hardy's "The Darkling Thrush", which was published on the eve of the 20th century. The poem portrays the damaged state of the world through details of the speaker's frigid and unwelcoming environs. During the second half of the poem a thrush is found to be singing a beautiful song, which lends an important but somehow noncomforting source of beauty to the poem.

Here is my thesis (*in italics*): "When the thrush appears and sings its beautiful song within the dead of winter, it represents the only source of life amongst a backdrop of desolation. This does little more than mystify the speaker, a response which lends incredible meaning to the last 100 years. *In his poem, Hardy juxtaposes the terrible attributes of the immediate past with a rare beauty of the present to create a powerful allusion to qualities which will make the burgeoning 20th century.*"

Re: Prufrock Thesis. (by Adam Jones)

Hello, Adam. I'm probably offering my comment here much too late to be of any use to the writing of your essay. That said, we covered this poem last semester in ENGL13B and the general consensus was that the character J. Alfred Prufrock is a person with very little personal identity and self worth. He fumbles through his days. He has vague notions of the things going on around him, but does not or cannot understand his life and the world around him in any great detail. He is living out his days absently: he isn't really there for any of it.

While I think it's fair to say that he experiences minor neuroses, none of them are greatly pronounced. They are similar to many of the things that people in general say to themselves when lacking in confidence, low on self esteem, experiencing shyness, etc. Personally, I found the character's detachment with his world to be a much greater attribute of the poem than his psychological qualities, on which I think you are putting too much emphasis for your essay. Your thesis is very ambitious and in order to do it justice you would probably need to write well more than ten pages, bring in multiple sources from various texts on poetry and psychology, and do a great deal of research on exactly what T.S. Eliot was trying to accomplish with the psychological component of the poem.

That said, maybe you've got it all worked out. Good luck on it either way.

Re:

Quote

Response