**![C:\Users\user\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\YC41Z9MY\MC900071179[1].wmf]() How to Write a Thesis for your Short Story Essay**

A thesis is the central/controlling idea of an essay. It is a statement, not a question. It contains a topic/issue and an opinion. It must be arguable, not self-evident or obvious to the reader. It must be supported with proof/evidence—this proof comes from the short story you are analyzing.

**It should include:**

* the title of your short story (in quotation marks of course)
* the author
* theme statement—universal, independent clause—no clichés!
* **three literary elements**—use a connotative adjective in front of each literary element, please
* present tense, active voice, 3rd person (no “I” or “you”), formal diction

**For example:**

In Louise Erdrich’s short story “Fleur” the quiet, observing **point of view**, dynamic, round **characterization** of the protagonist, and the mythically influenced Native American **setting** illustrates the theme that female power stands unyielding.

Title: “Fleur”

Author: Louise Erdrich

Theme Statement: Female power stands unyielding.

3 Literary Elements: point of view, character, setting

Connotative adjectives: quiet, observing; dynamic, round; mythically influenced

**Get it? Now you try:**

Title: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Author: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Theme Statement: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Literary Element 1:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Literary Element 2:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Literary Element 3:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Connotative adjective ideas: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_