Example Thesis:

What HOWWHY/THEMATIC MESSAGE

**Thesis: (consists of a “what” & “why” – for a style analysis, include a 3rd element “how”)**

Through his use of symbolism, Fitzgerald constructs Gatsby as amassing physical possessions to demonstrate that despite one’s best efforts, reclaiming and reliving the past is impossible, especially for individuals who value a shallow existence.

**CLAIM: (reason for the “what” or “why” of your thesis…this is a direct reference to the text)**

**Jay Gatsby erroneously believes the only way to reclaim a past that includes Daisy Buchanan is to impress her through ostentatious displays of wealth.**

**Add to the claim: (expand on the claim in a general way – do not include a direct reference to the text- no quotes, devices, or evidence here!)**

* **Showy materialism is a common way for those with money to try to reclaim a more idyllic past, especially after a damaging event.**
* **In the 1920s, an age of such showy materialism, many people were guilty of such behavior as evidenced through their unbridled spending.**

**SUPPORT: (textual evidence supporting your claim & explanation of how support proves claim)**

**Gatsby is no exception. In fact, his Rolls Royce, described as having a “rich cream color, bright with nickel, swollen here and there in its monstrous length with triumphant hatboxes and supper-boxes and tool-boxes, and terraced with a labyrinth of windshields that mirrored a dozen suns” (Fitzgerald 24) is the ultimate manifestation of showy materialism. With his use of the car, Fitzgerald establishes Gatsby’s misguided attempt to go back in time. To that point, the description of the car is clearly representative of gluttonous wealth. With the use of words such as “rich” and “nickel,” the author implores the reader to think about money, immediately. Furthermore, this car, now equated to money, is “swollen here and there in its monstrous length” (Fitzgerald 24), which is demonstrative of over-the-top wealth. “Swollen” and “monstrous” connote a sense of overflow and immenseness that the idle rich experience. With its “triumphant hatboxes and supper-boxes and tool-boxes” and “labyrinth of windshields,” (Fitzgerald 24) Gatsby’s car is extraordinary, especially as compared to vehicles driven by the common man during this time. Rather than drive a functional, practical black Ford Model-T, Gatsby is taking advantage of an opportunity to show off his wealth and produce an image of glitz, glamour, and success. These qualities are exactly what Gatsby believes Daisy Buchanan values and requires in a male companion. It is the exact reason, he believes, that he is unable to garner her hand in marriage years earlier, before she marries Tom. As an attempt to win her back - as an attempt to reclaim the past - he not only has purchased this ostentatious vehicle, but also is flaunting it for all eyes to see, especially Daisy’s.**

**Tie back (concluding sentence, the “so what” – do not repeat claim either verbatim or a paraphrase– connect back to the thematic message):**

Therefore, as is the case with Gatsby’s other possession-driven endeavors, this obvious attempt at requiting a lost love comes up short, for Gatsby remains outside the elite’s social construct.

What is a body paragraph?

A body paragraph supports the thesis by breaking down the argument into areas of discussion.

What is a CLAIM?

What is an ADD ON?

What is SUPPORT?

What is a TIE BACK?