**Prompt:** In a well-developed and well-organized essay, analyze how Hemingway develops his characterization of Santiago in The Old Man and the Sea and how this characterization develops the meaning of the text as a whole.

**Thesis examples:**

**Point-by-point method**

Hemingway utilizes syntax and symbolism in *The Old Man and the Sea* to examine the idea of endurance.

Comments/Issues:

1. Syntax needs to be qualified – of course the author uses sentence structure!
2. “why” needs expansion
3. No “what”

**Bolder statement**

Through his novella The *Old Man and the Sea,* Hemingway asserts the notion that endurance despite all opposition is the greatest victory.

Comments/Issues:

1. “How” is too broad and not a literary device– “Through his novella…. “
2. No “what” – add a phrase/clause regarding Santiago
3. “Why” is a much bolder statement that what is given in the point-by-point method

**Best statement**

Through his use of simplistic syntax and symbolism in *The Old Man and the Sea*, Hemingway depicts Santiago as a Christ-figure, asserting that endurance despite all opposition is the greatest victory.

Comments:

1. Syntax is qualified – gives your analysis of syntax direction!
2. “what” is plot specific – I know what you are arguing specifically about the text!
3. “why” is a bold statement – thematically structured!