

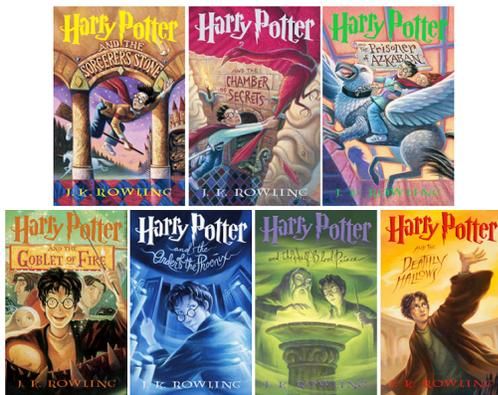
ADVANCED THESIS PIECES!

Activity Goal: You want to write the perfect thesis statement for an assignment but you are having trouble crafting the perfect phrase. Maybe back tracking and going back to your roots will help a little bit!

Level: Beginner

Situation One: It is Freshman year and you are taking English 1. You are trying to craft a thesis for your first essay about the book *Harry Potter*. After reading the book you find that what you loved most about it was the wonder, the magic, and the fighting scenes. Luckily in class the next day, your teacher tells you that your assignment is to write a paper about what you like about the book. Write a thesis that reflects the assignment goals and the level of thesis you are aiming to construct.

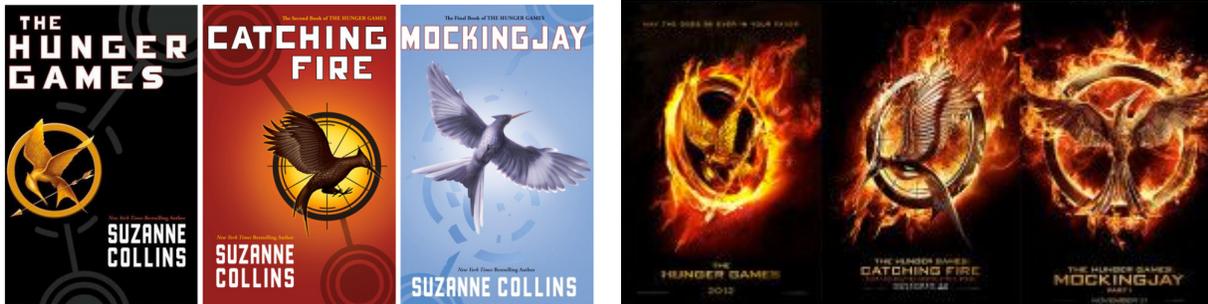
Hint: In (author) (book type) (book title) _____, _____, _____



Level: Intermediate

Situation Two: Now that you have finished your first year at Oxbridge, you start as Sophomore the next fall in English 2. Luckily, the first book you read is *The Hunger Games* and you are really into it. Throughout your reading of the book, you notice that Katniss's strength and courage allowed her to emerge victorious from the Games. For your first essay of the year, your teacher decides to assign an essay about what characteristics in the characters that survived until the end allowed them to live. Your teacher also requires that you veer from the traditional three-prong and five paragraph essay structure. You freak out but realize that the pamphlet on theses at the WRC can help you construct an original, more advanced thesis for this essay. Write a thesis that reflects the goals of the assignment and level of thesis required for the paper.

Hint: In (author) (book type) (book title) (theme/goal)



Level: Advanced

Situation Three: After sophomore year, you move on to Junior year and take English 3. Your first read in this class is *Divergent*, a book you have never read but have always desired to explore. During your reading of the text, you notice a theme of the corruption of knowledge and power that comments on our own society. Your teacher’s assignment is vague and open for interpretation: write an essay examining one of the major themes of the novel. She also explains that, as you are more advanced writers in junior year, the essay should focus on a specific aspect of one theme rather than every aspect of the theme. She says this will allow for more specific analysis. When she says this, you remember that the actions of one character, Jeanine Matthews, was the key basis for this theme in the text. Use this knowledge of the book and theme to write an advanced, specific thesis for your *Divergent* essay.

Hint: In (author) (book type) (book title) (specific theme/application)



(See next page)

Level: Expert

Situation Four: After the close of your Junior year, you begin your final and Senior year at Oxbridge the next fall. This year you are taking English 4 and the first book you read is *Twilight*. While reading the text, you notice the struggle for Edward to resist his primal instincts as a vampire in order to continue loving Bella as a symbol for forbidden love. You also notice intertextuality, meaning similar themes amongst multiple texts, between *Twilight* and *Romeo and Juliet*. In order to gauge your ability to think critically about texts at a highly advanced level, your teacher gives a vague prompt for your *Twilight* essay, simply telling you to explore the text in whatever way you deem will provide the reader of your essay with a deeper understanding of the novel. While many students turn to the WRC to help brainstorm for this open prompt, you only turn to the writing center to help develop an expert level compare/contrast, specific thesis for your essay. Use your knowledge on thesis statements to craft a thesis for your *Twilight* essay. Hint: In (author) (book type) (book title) (specific theme/compare contrast/intertextual observation)



Keep in mind that your thesis goals will be dependent on the assignment at hand; the intention of this activity is to help you gauge an understanding of the differences between a beginner level and advanced level thesis

For additional help, visit the Oxbridge WRC and talk to the Peer Tutors!