

Literature for Change Texts English I – Honors

Short Stories	Themes/Topics	Issues
“The Most Dangerous Game”	“Survival of the fittest” Killing out of self-defense Justification for War Gun-control Hunting for sport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Should the physically or intellectually superior dominate and or control the weaker in society? * Should guns be kept out of the hands of ordinary citizens? * Should hunting for sport be outlawed? * Is it ever really okay to go to war? * Should states change laws to be harder on individuals who kill for “self-defense”?
“The Scarlet Ibis”	Sibling rivalry Organ donors Physical disabled Abortion Pre-Implantation Genetic Diagnosis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Should society force all healthy people to be organ donors? * Should embryos with physical defects be screened for abortion? * Should disabled people be given special treatment (such as handicapped parking, etc.)?
“The Sniper”	Just war Acting before verifying Consequences of war Gun-control Compulsory draft/civil service Mandatory military service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Is it ever justified to go to war with other countries/peoples? * Should our current gun laws be strengthened? Loosened? * Is it really better to act on the old motto, “Better to ask for forgiveness than for permission”?
“The Cask of Amontillado”	Revenge/payback Justice Insanity Concealment of crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Should justice be sought at all costs? * What should be society’s role in helping the criminally insane? Rehabilitate? Punish?

Novels	Themes/Topics	Issues
<i>Animal Farm</i>	Government control Equality Abortion Euthanasia Universal healthcare Welfare state Entitlements Fairness Superiority vs. Inferiority Those in charge vs. those in servitude. Capital punishment Corporal punishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Should governments have the right to enforce child limits (e.g. 2 child policy in China)? * Should parents be allowed to use physical punishments such as spanking? * Is it okay to get rid of members of society that are no longer productive? * Should the government force individuals to purchase health care regardless of need or desire? * Is capital punishment a morally acceptable form of punishment? * Should the government have the right to spy on the personal electronic communication of private US citizens?
<i>Fahrenheit 451</i>	Importance of books/learning in society Drug addiction Over-reliance on technology Isolation in society Banning objectionable books/magazines/media Celebration of entertainment Compulsory education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Should students be forced to read books they don't want to read? * Should society allow certain books to be banned? * Is technology destroying society? * Should states relax drug laws? * Is technology harming communication? * Should sports/entertainment celebrities receive such high monetary reward in our society?
<i>Boy in the Striped Pajamas</i>	Social evolution	Is it okay for society to eliminate undesirables, such as genetically defective individuals?

Topic	Issues	Positions
Abortion	Should women continue to be given the right to choose whether to terminate their pregnancies?	Abortions should be outlawed in the US because they are tantamount to murder, they are psychologically harmful, and are unsafe for the mother.
Gun-control	Should the strict ban on military grade assault weapons be lifted to allow ordinary citizens the right to bear such weaponry?	Guns in the US should be more tightly restricted because our current laws do very little to protect innocent citizens from being murdered by individuals who possess them.
Euthanasia		
Physician-assisted suicide		
Embryonic stem-cell research		

THESIS STATEMENTS

How to write a thesis statement (remember that this will be your STATEMENT of your paper's SPES).

1. Begin with the "concession" (this is the part of the thesis that acknowledges there is another side, making this more than simply a propaganda piece)

Although many women believe that abortion is a sacred right and that the right to choose to terminate their pregnancy means that they have the right to control what is in their own body,

2. Next, move to your "assertion" (this is the STATEMENT or the POINT in your TIP); notice that is an *arguable* assertion.

abortions nevertheless must be outlawed in the United States;

3. Finally, provide your proof (this is the part where you speak generally about your reasoning behind your assertion; you will further advance the proof in your explanation).

after all, abortions are tantamount to murder and thus are morally wrong, furthermore, they are psychologically harmful to the women who receive them, and are physically unsafe for the mother, resulting in long-lasting physical side-effects that can devastate a woman's health.

Now, all together:

*Although many women believe that abortion is a sacred right and that the right to choose to terminate their pregnancy means that they have the right to control what is in their own body, **abortions nevertheless must be outlawed in the United States;** after all, abortions are tantamount to murder and thus are morally wrong, furthermore, they are psychologically harmful to the women who receive them, and are physically unsafe for the mother, resulting in long-lasting physical side-effects that can devastate a woman's health.*

Or the other side...

*Despite the fact that many people believe abortions are murder and thus should be outlawed, the fact is that **abortions should remain safe and legal in the US;** after all, they provide women the right to control what happens inside their body, they prevent unwanted children from entering the world thereby helping to reduce many social ills that happen as a result of unwanted children littering the earth, and they provide an alternative for individuals who may not be able to afford an extra family member.*

A good THESIS STATEMENT has: CONCESSION + ASSERTION + PROOF.

Practice sharpening your **TIP**

TOPIC	ISSUE	POSITION	CONNECTING LITERATURE

1. Using the charts above, **WRITE TIPS** for two separate controversial topics. Be sure write down the connecting literature for each tip.

2. Next, take your one of the above **TIPS** and create a 3 part thesis statement. Be sure to include the concession, the assertion, and your proof.

THESIS

CONCESSION

Although _____ ,

ASSERTION _____

PROOF _____

