

Thesis Creation

In the process of prewriting there are three questions to answer - WHAT?, WHY?, AND HOW?

ALWAYS identify your overarching idea first! This is the WHAT?

1. **WHAT** is the author trying to communicate? This is the overarching idea, theme, or message of the selection.

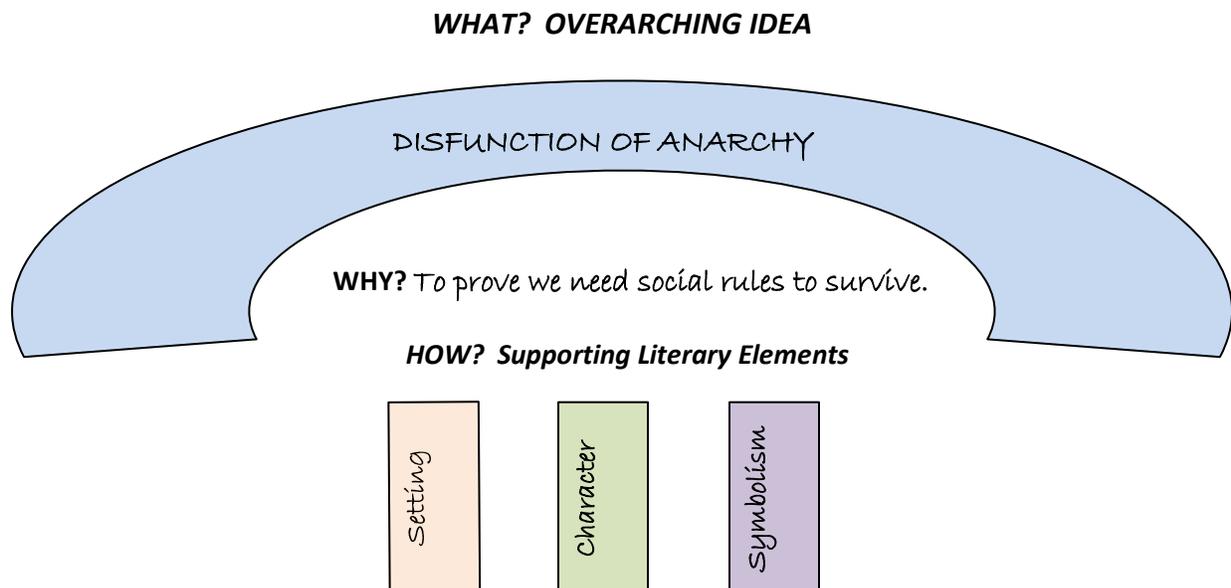
Next you need to identify the WHY?

2. **WHY** is the author trying to communicate this point? This will offer depth to your thesis statement AND your paper.

Finally consider the HOW?

3. **HOW** does the author go about the process of achieving the overarching idea? What literary devices are employed in order to communicate the OAI?

*Prewriting will help you identify the literary focus of your paper. Once you begin drafting the answers to these questions you can create a graphic organizer. This is a sample from *The Lord of the Flies*.*



Thesis Creation

Note for thesis creation – the following is a **BASIC** format for thesis. You are not restricted to this sentence, or even ONE sentence. You do however have to have the appropriate information.

Ex: In the novel (TITLE) written by (AUTHOR), the author (VERB - demonstrates, shows, proves, claims, illustrates, communicates, etc.) that (OAI -WHAT?) in order to (WHY?), through the use of (HOW? - supporting literary elements).

Basic: This is basic and should be revised several times for depth, fluency and effectiveness.

In the novel *The Lord of the Flies* written by William Golding, the author demonstrates that anarchy breeds dysfunction in order to show that we need social rules to survive, through character, setting, and symbolism.

A second draft may look like this:

In the novel *The Lord of the Flies*, William Golding demonstrates that anarchy can breed dysfunction and social rules are imperative, through the use of setting, characters, and symbolism.

-or-

William Golding uses setting, characters, and symbolism to create an environment of anarchy and dysfunction in his novel, *The Lord of the Flies*. This is done to enlighten readers about humanity's need for social rules.

A third and final draft might look like this:

Golding explores the idea that anarchy breeds dysfunction in his novel *The Lord of the Flies*. He effectively demonstrates to his post World War II audience, that humanity needs rules to survive, through the use of an unfamiliar setting, the juxtaposition of characters, and social symbolism.

Now – Must you use three aspects? Of course not! You may only have one; however, be sure to explore thoroughly the supporting literary devices you choose to support your overarching idea.

