

Formulating a Thesis Statement.

Ideas to consider for the short story "War Party"

Definition of Thesis Statement: Every paper you write should have a main point, a main idea, or central message. The argument(s) you make in your paper should reflect this main idea. The sentence that captures your position on this main idea is what we call a thesis statement.

Formula for writing a thesis statement: Topic + opinion about topic

In your notebooks, brainstorm ideas by answering the following prompts:

1. Ask 5 questions about the story. Questions should be open-ended, not answered easily. They might relate to character motivation/details and setting. They might ask for details. They should require you to read between the lines--make you think.
2. What is the theme of the story? Try 3 or more versions until you are satisfied.
3. List as many conflicts you can think of in the story.
4. How do each of the following elements reveal/contribute/point to the theme? Setting, point of view, character, conflict, plot.
5. Identify the protagonist and how he/she changes.
6. Identify any antagonists?
7. What places are puzzling or confusing about the story?
8. Can you compare the story to another story?
9. How is suspense created in the story?
10. What patterns do you see emerge in the story?
11. Are there any potential topics you might research that would shed light on the story? Ie: women's rights during Westward Expansion?
12. Fill in the blank. Ie: Ma is bigger than life. Ma is like a superhero. Ma is a feminist.

Ma is _____. Ma is _____. Ma is _____.

13. Is this an example of a bildungsroman or coming of age story?
14. Does the setting change throughout the story?
15. Brainstorm ideas about rules in the story.
16. Make a list of contrasts. Hint: Start with the title.

Topic(s) you think you might like to explore. Choose 3 in case your top choice doesn't work out.

