

Thesis Statement Examples

Conservative Thought in the United States (History 277): James Madison wrote Federalist Papers Ten and Fifty-One to express his view of how the republicanism of the incipient American government should be refined. In Ten, he states his reasons for the extension of the republican government; in Fifty-One, he assures potential ratifiers of the Constitution that the government will have the check of bicameralism to prevent governmental abuses of liberty. When these two papers are held up to a standardly accepted definition of conservative thought, we realize that Madison was constructing his political theories upon key conservative tenets.

Evolutionary Biology (Biology 441): What lies beyond the door of evolutionary change? Individuals are constantly changing and adapting to their environments. By the same token, whole species are diverging and creating entirely new lineages. Yet, a conflict has arisen that has shed new light on the evolutionary picture. Scientists are asking whether the mode of evolutionary change that has dominated theories on how organisms evolve is the correct one. Supporters of phyletic gradualism claim evolutionary changes are gradual and continuous; a recent challenge to this theory is that of punctuated equilibrium. A careful analysis of the evidence will show phyletic gradualism, rather than punctuated equilibrium, to be an accurate description of evolutionary change.

Introduction to English Literature (English 200): 'The Rape of the Lock' was written in an attempt to pacify relations between two quarreling parties -- Arabella Fermor and her friends, and Lord Petri and his friends. Lord Petri had, much to Arabella's indignation cut off a lock of her hair. Alexander Pope worked this incident into a poem depicting Arabella as Belinda, intending to show the two groups concerned that they had blown the incident out of proportion -- and to make them laugh at it. In lines 1-24 of Canto 3, Pope shows the ridiculousness of giving excessive importance to trivial matters.

Women and American Social Reform (History 352): The driving forces behind Elizabeth Cady Stanton's devotion to women's rights bring to mind the story of the chicken and the egg; without one there could not be the other. Had she never moved to Seneca Falls, the role of domestic might never have become so unacceptable to her, and the second-class status of her sex might not have become so personally apparent? It was her experience as homemaker, that duty she felt so stifling, that both thrust her into and prevented her from entering the public world of reform. Without that first-hand exposure to mindless drudgery, Stanton probably would never have felt that she needed to lead the fight for equality. With it, she was fueled enough by righteous discontent to pen the Declaration of Sentiments. Both Elizabeth Griffith's biography and Seneca Falls itself provide fodder for the case of the "personal as political"; home, for Stanton, was the source of her discontent.

Introduction to Philosophy (Philosophy 110): According to Plato, the ideal society occurred when the three basic classifications of people lived in harmonious co-existence. Plato used this society as a model to determine the ideal personality. He argued that people whose inner lives are in order; people with so-called "healthy personalities," will never do anything that is morally wrong. If this theory is true, then all bad deeds must be committed by unhealthy personalities; one might even suppose that individuals with unhealthy personalities are incapable of doing good. Are these statements true? Though the latter is dubious, Plato's theory of the healthy personality and its possessor's inability to commit crimes such as murder does have merit and can be shown to be quite sound.

Music of the Middle Ages and Renaissance (Music 201): Although he is acknowledged as a great master both by his contemporaries and by modern scholars, the composer Josquin des Prez remains somewhat of an enigma. Neither the place nor date of his birth is known; his works cannot be arranged chronologically, and there is a marked dearth of his compositions preceding the year 1500 (Brown, 120). The little information we have seems to suggest that Josquin was a stereotypical genius, a cantankerous figure who did little to please the crowds and was socially inept (Brown, 119). He is identified also as a turning point in the history of music, a man with an uncommon gift through whom music reached previously uncharted heights of expression (Brown, 131).

Cultural Anthropology (Anthropology 113): The Mbuti Pygmies represent an interesting anthropological study. They are a people who remain unaffected and only remotely touched by the outer world. While revolution and change raged around their forest home in the sixties, threatening their lifestyle, they maintained their peaceful society within the sanctity of the deep woods. The Mbuti culture concerns itself with conflict only on an internal level, which it solves with ritual and ceremony that never threaten the lives of members of the tribe. Their non-violent handling of conflict seems to disprove the argument that violent conflict and warfare are inherent in humanity. Using the example of the Mbuti, it is possible to conclude that the violence of humanity is a result of social environment, not heredity.

A two sentence thesis statement

Introduction to Shakespeare (English 244): William Shakespeare has created in Falstaff perhaps the most comic character ever to entertain an audience. It is at first interesting, even puzzling, that such a character would evolve from historical plays, yet, at a closer look, that is precisely why he is so funny. Falstaff is purely fictional; without fact to fall back on he is nothing if not comic. Comedy is clearly his purpose and his achievement in both parts of King Henry the Fourth. In his words on honor from 1Henry4, Falstaff explains what he is not, while in his speech on sack in 2Henry4, one gets a look at what he is. The two form a cohesive picture of this enormously comic character.