

Remember the three parts of a thesis statement.

HOW?	WHAT?	WHY?
How will I make my case?	What am I arguing about the text?	Why does it matter?
This is the motif or pattern you traced. This is what you saw with your own eyes when reading the story.	This is the logical conclusion you can derive from what the pattern suggests. The argument will, for our purposes now, make a case about a character in the story.	This is the larger conclusion of the idea, the richer understanding of the work at hand. This larger idea will make a broader claim about some aspect of living.
The use of... \longrightarrow suggests.... \longrightarrow As a result, I now see...		

Thesis 1: The real difference between Sonny and the narrator in “Sonny’s Blues” is that, while the narrator follows a more traditional path in life, Sonny improvises an existence. In fact, it’s the story’s main motif of music that serves as a metaphor for the story’s larger theme about living: While the narrator plays the right notes laid out for him by life’s composer, Sonny relies on his own and finds more meaning in an ability to improvise, living life one note at a time just as he does when he plays jazz in Harlem’s nightclubs.

Thesis 2: The strangeness of “Sonny’s Blues” lies in the story’s suggestion that, despite the narrator taking the most common path in life—working hard, finding a steady job, building a stable home, having a family—he remains the unhappier brother. By putting into stark contrast the choices of the two main characters, Baldwin’s short story shows that true happiness begins with following your passions and learning to challenge the notion of the so-called right path.

Thesis 3: Whereas both characters in “Sonny’s Blues” remain in the darkness at the end of the story, Sonny is the only brother who manages to find comfort and happiness in that darkness. The narrator, as shown by his reliance on contrasting images of and references to darkness and light, struggles to be at peace with where he is in the world, always wishing he was somewhere else. James Baldwin’s short story shows, despite what we might hope, the grass is *not* always greener on the other side, and that real happiness lies where we are if only we allow ourselves to see it.

Thesis 4: Whereas at the beginning of the short story, the narrator, reminded of his brother's choices in life, grimaces each time he hears music, by the end, he gradually accepts music's inspiring influence, signifying his acceptance of his brother's choices. James Baldwin's "Sonny's Blues" argues that the most important relationships in our lives thrive if each person allows the other to grow in their own way and follow the desires they have in their heart.

Thesis 5: James Baldwin's "Sonny's Blues" uses images of entrapment and claustrophobia to show that in order to maintain a healthy relationship with others we must first break free from our own insecurities that bind us; the irony of the story is that in all the years of attempting to set his brother Sonny free, it was the narrator who needed Sonny to do the very same for him.

Now let's turn to your thesis.

DRAFT:		
HOW?	WHAT?	WHY?
REVISION:		