

Remember the three parts of a thesis statement from freshman year.

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

**Thesis 1:** In his 1989 “Farewell Address” to the American people, Ronald Reagan claims that “anyone with the heart and the will to get there” can achieve entry to the doors of and succeed in America, a place he terms the “shining city on a hill”. John Steinbeck’s *Of Mice and Men* argues that it’s not that simple; rather, the novel suggests the so-called American Dream remains a mere fantasy for even those with heart and will. Steinbeck, of course, includes George and Lennie, characters with great hearts but who succumb to their weak wills, but he also provides a foil in Slim, a character with both a strong heart and will. This contrast suggests that the path to success is not as linear as Reagan would make it seem. While George and Lennie fall victim to their own weak wills, Slim succumbs to a broken system.

**Thesis 2:** In “A Model of Christian Charity”, John Winthrop argues that living in his proverbial city on a hill requires that men “must be knit together” and “must entertain each other in brotherly affection.” USE THIS PREMISE TO CONTINUE AND FINISH THE THESIS. (Consider minor characters like Candy, Curley’s wife, and Crooks, who live lonely lives in isolation, as well as George and Lennie, who maintain companionship.)

**Thesis 3:** Try using Emma Lazarus's poem about the outcasts of society (Consider the fate of Crooks, Candy, Lennie, and Curley's wife.)

**Now work out your own.**

**Thesis:**

**Topic sentence 1:**

**Topic sentence 2:**