

Name _____

How to Write a Strong Theme

- An insightful, universal truth about the world, life or people in general and **why this matters**
- **Values or priorities** we should have in our lives as individuals or as a society and a **warning** of what our future holds when we don't
- how people should behave, react in certain situations, treat others or live their lives and the **consequences if they do not** or **how** this leads to a more fulfilling life.
- our **ethical responsibilities** as humans and the **implications** to us as individuals and / or society when we meet or ignore these responsibilities
- a **criticism** about fashionable or popular customs, ideas or values and the consequences not just for the individual but for society as a whole who demonstrate such attitudes

<p>1. Start with identifying the major topics your text deals with. Use the G-4 list for ideas. Try to write the topics as phrases.</p>	
<p>2. Now look for connections between these topics. Think about what happens in the text and what the author's attitude is about these topics and events? Who does the author seem to favor, respect, etc.?</p> <p>Use words like human beings, humankind, humanity, people, we, society, civilization, etc. or groups (children, families, people who are oppressed, leaders, corporate businesses, etc.) Do NOT use he/she, they, a specific name, the characters.</p> <p>*Also avoid words like always and all.</p>	
<p>3. Think about the consequences or implications to the characters. What happens to them? How are they affected as individuals? Is there a suggestion that larger groups of people or society as a whole might be affected?</p>	
<p>4. Under what conditions or situations is this theme true, according to the author? (when people are isolated from civilization, when people are deprived of basic needs and human rights, when our personal safety is at risk, when people accept stereotypes as truth, when people prioritize wealth or material things over relationships, etc.)</p>	
<p>5. Revisit the language and sentence structure. Are there more interesting or precise words you can use that better capture the tone or attitude of the author? Is the statement too wordy and need to be condensed? Within the text, are there any important comparisons in the text that would work well to weave into the theme?</p>	

