*THE GREAT GATSBY* PAPER REQUIREMENTS:

* You will be writing a five or six-paragraph essay on a thematic idea that you will prove through lit devices like characterization, allusion, symbolism, motif, sound imagery, etc.
* EX: Throughout *Of Mice and Men*, John Steinbeck employs characterization to illustrate that those with power tend to abuse it.
* EX: In “The Masque of the Red Death,” Edgar Allan Poe relies on foreshadowing, sound imagery, and symbolism to reveal that death cannot be escaped.
* Each body paragraph must contain at least two pieces of textual evidence
* You are responsible for adhering to paper guidelines we’ve discussed involving structure, transitions, citing, analysis, grammar, and style
* Your topic: You must choose a thematic idea and construct a theme statement. If you want to write on something other than these topics, just talk to me:
* **AMERICAN DREAM**: What is Fitzgerald conveying about the American dream? Develop that as portrayed by:
* Symbols
* A multitude of lit devices/motifs
* Setting
* Foil characters (Daisy/Myrtle and/or Tom/Gatsby) (Remember that foil characters are contrasts, like Harry Potter and Draco Malfoy, Mustafa and Scar, Anakin and Luke Skywalker)
* **REINVENTION of SELF**: What is Fitzgerald conveying about characters’ attempts at reinvention of self? (Hint: Which characters most reflect an attempt to reinvent? Do they succeed? How do you know?)
* **MORALS/VALUES of the 20s**: Develop a theme statement about the morals/values of the 20s. (Hint: Think about relationship types: one thing leads to another, one thing happens as a result of another, one thing “goes up” or intensifies as another “comes down…” or lessens)

***THE GREAT GATSBY* PAPER PROPOSAL**: In writing let me know what you want to explore for your paper. Because people will be writing on different topics and will be structuring their paragraphs differently, it’s hard for me to make a graphic organizer for you. Instead, you’ll set it up and **LABEL all parts** as you go. Since this is for ungraded formative feedback, I’m leaving it up to you to be as detailed or overviewed as you would like. I also don’t mind fragments/bullet points as long as you still are clear. Here’s what I’d like to see, though:

* **THESIS:** Just write it out again after I have approved it
* **SECTION 1 (note that a section may contain one or two paragraphs, depending on your topic/organization)**:
* What’s it about in general (or go ahead a write a formal topic sentence)
* Give me a brief description of what main points the paragraph will be about (either include a paraphrased specific examples or a direct quote) with a brief note about how that really does prove the thesis
* If you intend to write two paragraphs for this section, let me know!
* **SECTION 2:** Same deal
* **SECTION 3:** Same deal, if you have a section 3

*\*At the end, feel free to pose a question to me about something that is confusing or that you’re not sure what to do with, etc.*

*\*\*See* ***sample proposal*** *on the other side.*

**SAMPLE PROPOSAL EXCERPTS**

* **SAMPLE one-paragraph section on *The Crucible***
* **THESIS:** In *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller, those who suffer with guilt seek atonement.
* **SECTION 1:** **HALE**
* **TOPIC SENTENCE (optional):** A character who laments his role in the proceedings and thus attempts to remedy his errors is Reverend Hale. (*Note that I have varied word choice from the thesis.)*

**CONTENT:** examples of Hale trying to right his wrongs, which proves that he feels guilty.

* WITH EVIDENCE: Act 3: Elizabeth lies in court that her husband is not a lecher, but John then looks like he fibbed in his charge against Abigail as a “whore” seeking revenge. Hale then defends Elizabeth: “Excellency, it is a natural lie to tell; I beg you, stop now before another is condemned!” (Miller 114). He was “Pontius Pilate” doing nothing earlier but comes to the rescue b/c of his guilty conscience
* PARAPHRASE: Hale says at the end that there is blood on his head🡪feels responsible for accusations and doesn’t want the burden of deaths of innocent people on his conscience so he advises them to lie.
* **SAMPLE: ONE SECTION, TWO PARAGRAPHS: What might that structure look like?**
* **THESIS:** By utilizing Biblical allusion and static characters, Arthur Miller is able to demonstrate that sometimes the worst evil is silence in the face of injustice.
* **SECTION 1 (only one paragraph) ALLUSION**
* **TOPIC SENTENCE (optional)**: Through Biblical allusion, Miller emphasizes the danger of abandoning one’s voice when others need help.
* Ex: Mary and Tobias: reference to a boy, Tobias, told to do right at all times, which John wants Mary to do by exposing the girls’ lies; the stage directions give clues that she whispers, is “barely audible”🡪won’t speak out against the girls (so Abby continues to be believed and suspicion even falls on Mary)
* Ex: Hale called a “Pontius Pilate” for not intervening in court on behalf of innocent people accused; like the ruler who could have saved Jesus from crucifixion and yet “washed his hands” so, too, does Hale distance himself and allow for unjust accusations (Marth, Rebecca, Elizabeth then arrested).
* **SECTION 2 (two paragraphs):** **STATIC CHARACTERS**
* **PARAGRAPH 1**: Miller also incorporates static characters, such as Parris, to underscore the tragedy that results when witnesses ignore a sense of social responsibility. (\**note that you’d go from the topic sentence right into analysis of Parris):*
* Establish how he is at beginning (cares most about reputation and money, as when he’s worried about a “faction” against him and about his salary/cost of firewood. In Act 3, he even lies in court about the girls’ dancing in the woods naked to protect his image, allowing innocent people to be condemned)
* How he doesn’t change by the end (is worried for his own life after finding a dagger in his door and cries over his stolen 31 pounds. He doesn’t immediately reveal the stolen money and Abby’s departure—a signal of her wrong-doing—to quiet suspicion and thus he works to keep his own reputation intact.) People (Rebecca, Martha, John) then continue to die.
* **PARAGRAPH 2**: \**note that you do still need a topic sentence, but its purpose will be transitional:* Much like Parris, Danforth refuses to stand against unfairness, therefore furthering its devastation.
* Establish how he is in Act 3 (Make concession that he seems to give some attention both to John and Mary’s story, but then sides with Abigail to uphold the reputation of the court AND what he sees as God’s law rather than consider the reason for Elizabeth’s lie to protect her husband’s good name—allows for accusations to continue, resulting in one against John)
* How he doesn’t change by the end (Has the chance to postpone hangings but will not because he fears that people will see a “floundering” on his part. And so, more innocents—Rebecca, John, Martha—are hanged.)