

## ***Pride and Prejudice* Thesis Statements (spring 2011)**

You want as many yeses as possible.

<b>Thesis Statements are complete sentences that meet (at least) the following four criteria. They are:</b>	<b>debatable or arguable</b>	<b>relevant, interesting and complex</b>	<b>neither too broad nor too narrow</b>	<b>not abstract but rather concrete &amp; specific</b>
Elizabeth's quick judgment of Mr. Darcy and Mr. Wickham cause her and her family pain, and had she been less prejudiced and more reasoned in her formation of these judgments, she would have prevented some heartache.	yes	yes	yes	yes
Elizabeth is too quick to judge Darcy. Or, Elizabeth's first impressions are wrong.	no	no	no	no
Set in a society where marrying for wealth and social status is more common than marrying for love and suitability, Elizabeth makes the strong choice to wait for love even knowing it may never come.	yes	yes	yes	yes
Getting married is the goal of the females in this book.	yes	no	no	no
Mr. Collins' best quality, and his greatest appeal to any woman of sense, is how easily he is manipulated by powerful women.	yes	yes	yes	yes
Mr. Collins is interesting. Or, Mr. Collins is not as bad as he seems.	yes	yes	no	no
Although Lydia is both young and inexperienced in the ways of the world, which does get her into trouble, her real fault, which causes her family much grief, is selfishness.	yes	yes	yes	yes
Lydia is selfish and only thinks of herself.	yes	maybe	no	no
Jane Austen's <i>Pride and Prejudice</i> illustrates many kinds of marriages, but the reader is left with the impression that marriages of love and suitability are the kinds of marriages to be wished for.	yes	yes	yes	yes

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A successful marriage should be based on love, stability and happiness.	yes	yes	no	no
Often dismissed as simple-minded and shallow, Mrs. Bennet has more intelligence than her family and the readers give her credit for.	yes	yes	yes	yes
Mrs. Bennet only cares about getting her daughters married, which isn't a bad plan given their potential futures.	yes	yes	maybe	maybe
Although Mr. Darcy claims to abhor disguise, he is a man of many secrets, great and small, and his "abhorrence" of keeping these secrets is up for debate.	yes	yes	yes	yes
In Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice, the hero's journey is best exemplified by Mr. Darcy, the chronically introverted suitor of Elizabeth Bennet, who must overcome his reserved nature and self-centeredness in order to win Elizabeth's hand in marriage.	yes	yes	yes	yes
Darcy comes off as prideful and offensive, but really is a (fill in the blank) _____ (caring/passionate/respectable/etc.) man.	no	no	no	no
I like/identify with/dig/empathize with/etc. (fill in the blank) <u>x</u> character.	no	no	no	no
Darcy proposes to Elizabeth twice.	no	no	no	no
Elizabeth is crazy to turn down two proposals.	yes	no	no	yes