

A “PERFECT 6” THESIS  
HAS THE FOLLOWING CHARACTERISTICS:

\_\_\_\_\_Thesis statement directly answers the question.

\_\_\_\_\_Thesis statement is clear.

\_\_\_\_\_Thesis is stated in a single sentence.

\_\_\_\_\_Thesis statement and ideas are logical and well-developed.

\_\_\_\_\_Thesis Statement is engaging and insightful.

**The Thesis is the center of your OR.**

**YOU SHOULD NOT START WRITING THE OR  
UNTIL YOU HAVE A CLEAR THESIS STATEMENT.**

**What role does Citizen Barlow play in *Gem of the Ocean*?**

Please examine the following Theses and score them using the thesis section of the OR Rubric between 1 and 6.

In August Wilson’s *Gem of the Ocean*, Citizen is looking to get his soul washed because he thinks he killed a man even though he really just didn’t tell the truth about having stolen a bucket of nails.

In August Wilson’s *Gem of the Ocean*, Citizen Barlow is from Alabama and is in spiritual turmoil. He is looking to get his soul washed by Aunt Ester. He is trying to live up to his name. He is trying to become a citizen. And by the end of the play, he does become a citizen.

Citizen Barlow is the main character of August Wilson's *Gem of the Ocean*. He plays a very important role in the play. If it weren't for him, the play wouldn't have any real purpose.

In August Wilson's *Gem of the Ocean*, Citizen Barlow has killed a man and feels very guilty. He says he feels like there is a hole inside him. Throughout the play Citizen seeks to escape this feeling of guilt.

Over the course of August Wilson's *Gem of the Ocean*, Citizen Barlow undergoes a spiritual journey in which he finds his true identity.

August Wilson's *Gem of the Ocean* is about the African American search for meaningful freedom after the abolition of slavery. Citizen Barlow is the character through which this search for freedom takes place.

In order for humans to live in freedom they must take responsibility for their actions. This is the meaning of citizenship. In August Wilson's *Gem of the Ocean*, Citizen Barlow finds his way to freedom and citizenship by learning how to take responsibility for his actions.

We have to know our past in order to understand ourselves. In August Wilson's *Gem of the Ocean*, Citizen Barlow finds his identity by getting in touch with his ancestral roots.

Citizen Barlow's character in August Wilson's *Gem of the Ocean* represents both the plight and the hope of African American people at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

PLEASE WRITE TWO PERFECT 6 THESIS STATEMENTS FOR EACH OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

*Remember: You only have to write the thesis statements, not the entire OR.*

## **WRITING ASSIGNMENT 1**

Every decade has a musician who stands out as its greatest.

Choose the musician from the past decade who you think was our greatest musician and, in a well developed Open Response, discuss why he/she was the greatest.

*NOTE: You can substitute "athlete" for "musician" if you would rather write your theses about sports.*

**Thesis 1:**

**Thesis 2:**

## **WRITING ASSIGNMENT 2**

Often authors aim to teach a lesson or make a point through their writing.

Choose a work of literature you have read in or out of school in which you think the author is trying to teach a lesson or make a point. In a well-developed composition, explain what this lesson/point is and how the author teaches/makes it.

**Thesis 1:**

**Thesis 2:**