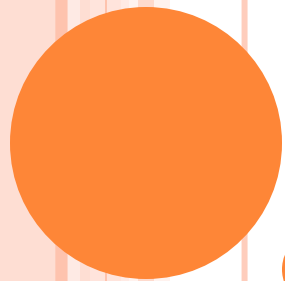


BRAINSTORM

- What is your favorite movie of all time?
- List three reasons why this movie is great.
- Now, think of your assigned film for the paper.
- What makes this movie great? List at least three things.





THE THREE POINT THESIS

Mrs. Jeanneret

American Literature 2014

WHAT IS A THESIS STATEMENT?

- Your thesis statement presents your argument to the reader. It is your key, your roadmap, your guide.
- It shows the significance of the relationships you have found—for this research paper, it will prove why your chosen movie belongs on the AFI list.
- It passes the “So, what?” test.
- It is *arguable*.
- It is **not** a question.



SO, WHAT'S A THREE POINT THESIS?

- In your three point thesis, you preview the three points you will elaborate on in your body paragraphs.
- Your thesis will be only one sentence long.



- Good Thesis
- Tangible, concrete aspects of the film (e.g. acting, cinematography)
- Qualities of the film that can be analyzed
- Focuses on technique and achievement
- The movie *Platoon* deserves its position among the list of the top one hundred American films of all time because of its realistic portrayal of the Vietnam War, which results from unglorified characters, superb directing by Vietnam War veteran Oliver Stone, and an unusual documentary-like style that makes use of disorienting scenes.

- Bad Thesis
- Intangible qualities (e.g. “The film is *uplifting*.” Or “Watching *The Wizard of Oz* makes people happy.” These words talk about the emotions of the audience, which is an aspect of the film difficult to know or to explore)
- Focuses on popularity
- Uses circular reasoning
- *Titanic* deserves its rank on the American Film Institute’s Top 100 list because of the records it set in total domestic gross and Academy Awards garnered and because of its ability to move audiences to tears.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- For Monday, March 17th, you will write your intro paragraph. It must be typed. Please bring two copies.
- For Monday, March 31st, you will have your typed outline, which I will explain soon.
- For Tuesday, April 8th, you will have your first body paragraph.
- By Tuesday, April 22nd, you will have a typed rough draft of the essay.

