

The main point of the essay is *to prove what you think about the text* through analysis and engaging specific quotes from the text. Quotes should be chosen and placed throughout the essay carefully.

*What do I say? How do I start? [Thesis/Topic Thinking]* Initially, before polishing, your topic should involve your main thoughts on the novel.

*[Topic Thinking]* I think The Great Gatsby is a comment on the generation of the “Jazz Age” because Fitzgerald employs music as the background in many scenes.

*[Polished Thesis]* F. Scott Fitzgerald employs music as a background in many scenes of The Great Gatsby as commentary on the “Jazz Age” generation.

*How do I prove my point? [Remind reader of where the quote happens, what the quote means, and why it may be significant]*

When Jordan Baker tells Nick about the motivation behind Gatsby’s mansion location, a Fats Waller song lyric breaks up their conversation, “ ‘I’m the Sheik of Araby./Your love belongs to me./At night when you’re asleep/Into your tent I’ll creep—’ “ (Fitzgerald 78). This jazz song, a popular standard of Gatsby’s time, reflects on Gatsby’s nearness to Daisy; furthermore, the lyrics imply that Gatsby, like the Sheik, is lurking around Daisy and her love. *[Here, bring this idea to your main point too – how does this connect to the thesis?].*