***The Outsiders* Theme Essay**

**What is S.E. Hinton’s message/theme in the *The Outsiders***? How did S.E. make choices about the plot, characters, conflicts, and craft to help communicate that theme/message? Write an essay that identifies that theme and explains how the theme develops throughout the book.

* Can’t think of a theme? Use your theme chart. What words/ideas kept appearing in the book? What do most of your quotes seem to be about? Try rereading those quotes to see what you notice. What might Hinton have been saying about that idea/topic?
* Can’t find evidence? Use your theme chart. It’s probably already there! If you still can’t find it, ask someone in your group if they have a recommendation for you.

**You introduction must…**

* briefly summarize *The Outsiders*
* Have a thesis/focus statement that clearly answer the question.

**The body of your essay…**

* + Must have three paragraphs.
  + Must have specific evidence that supports your point, including quotes.
  + Must explain how your evidence supports your thesis.

**You conclusion must…**

* + Briefly restate your thesis/focus statement and summarize your body paragraphs.
  + Have a “So What?” Broaden your thesis to the real world.