

THESIS CHECKLIST

Scope: Defining your Object of Study

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- ✓ Is your scope text-based and appropriately focused for the assignment?
 - Have you clearly articulated the specific object that you're examining?
 - Is that object text-based?
 - Is that object sufficiently focused?

Method: Articulating your Method of Analysis (Your method for engaging the text)

- ✓ How have you gone about analyzing the object of your text?
 - Did you dissect and examine its various components and how they work as a whole? (archaeological dig)
 - Did you identify and examine the various instances in which this object occurs throughout the larger text in order to deduce a trajectory and/or any patterns for how this object is employed in the text? (follow the trail)
- ✓ Do you provide clear, relevant, and accurately-cited textual evidence of the object you're examining?
- ✓ Do you carefully and thoroughly explain what you observe about that object and how you're observing?

Claim: Positing a claim, based on your analysis, about how the text works and why that how matters

- ✓ Do you posit an interpretive claim about the object based on your careful and thorough analysis?
- ✓ Is the claim about that object (or is it about an idea or aspect of the text that is actually elsewhere and outside this object)?
- ✓ Do you articulate the stakes of your claim?
- ✓ Do you posit in your interpretation how your claim about this object affects the way we understand (think about) some larger part of the text (a theme, a character, an overarching question)?

Roadmap: Organizational Preview (2-4 sentences)

- ✓ Do you follow the statement of your claim with a roadmap that allows your reader to preview how you will illustrate the claim in the paper?
- ✓ Does your roadmap reflect and/or complement your method of analysis?