

## VALID THEME CLAIMS

*Read the four paragraphs below, paying special attention to the bolded text. The theme claims are all valid because they do not break any of the commandments.*

In Hedda Gabler, Ibsen uses the character change in Hedda to show that Hedda is controlling because [she] needs “to have power” to get what she wants this shows that **people who want to be in control will do anything and everything to have control over someone or something** (45). Hedda uses fear to control Thea because [she] is “afraid of [you], Hedda” (44). Hedda also only likes to be in control and not be controlled, Hedda “can't endure the thought” of not being in control (71).

In the play, Hedda Gabler, the author, Henrik Ibsen, uses Hedda Tesman as the protagonist. Although Hedda is married to George Tesman she is in love with her ex, Eilert Lovborg “[Thea] child and Eilert Lovborg's” basically meaning she was jealous that they referred to the manuscript as their child (59). Also, Eilert took his life but every detail about how or where he took his life Hedda was in denial “[t]hat is impossible Judge Brack! [h]e [couldn't] have been there again [today]” this just goes to show Hedda knew what was he was going to do, she told him “do it peacefully” (68). Lastly, Hedda took it as far as taking her own life “[s]hot herself in the temple!” she wanted to be closer to Eilert because she was in love with him. The author, Henrik Ibsen, uses Hedda Tesman as the protagonist to show that **love makes people do stupid things**.

In Hedda Gabler Hedda has changed in many ways during the story. Ibsen uses Hedda's boldness to show that each character has their own flaw, and something that they desire; this shows that **not everyone is perfect**. Hedda is married, but to the wrong person. She is “boring [h]erself to death”(32). Hedda's biggest desire is for power. It's her way or the high way no matter the situation. “[Hedda] [m]akes [t]hreats to burn [Thea's] hair off”(45). With Hedda's desire for power she will go through anything to get it. Once you get on Hedda's bad side there is no recovery for it.”[Lovborg]... must go now-and... not come-here anymore”(59)

In the play Hedda Gabler the character Hedda Tesman has changed in various ways since act 1. In Hedda Gabler, Henrik Ibsen shows that **everybody in the world wants power & influence over others**. Ibsen expresses that through the manipulative and cruel nature of Hedda. Hedda resorts to being manipulative because “I (Hedda) have no power over you (Lövborg)” (41), Hedda also just wants “to have the power to mould a human destiny” (45). Hedda always felt like she needed to be in control of everything and everyone like when she was thinking “whether I (Hedda) should get Tesman into politics” (31).

## SMOOTH WEAVING & PROPER CITATION

*All of the quotations below are smoothly woven into the students' writing, and the citations are in parentheses at the end of each sentence directly before the periods. Notice that students used brackets and ellipses to make the language of the play fit naturally with their own.*

- Hedda is “boring [h]erself to death” (32).
- When Lövborg asks if “[Hedda] loves [Tesman]”, it shows how he knows Hedda doesn't have strong feelings for Tesman (38).
- Hedda “[m]akes [t]hreats to burn [Thea's] hair off”(45).
- Hedda also just wants “to have the power to mould a ... destiny” (45).

## Thematic Analysis Task – Peer Revision (Part One)

### Commandment #1 Broken: NO PLOT

*Read the paragraph below, paying special attention to the bolded text. The theme claim is invalid because the student includes plot in the claim. Rewrite the sentence in which the claim appears so that this commandment isn't broken. Highlight the revised theme claim.*

The Character Hedda Tesmen from the play Hedda Gabler has changed in many ways since the beginning of the story. In Hedda Gabler; Ibsen uses Hedda's cruelty to suggest that **every character has a desire for power and influence in the story**. Hedda just wants "for once in [her] life to have power to [mold] a human destiny" (45). She also tries to make people feel scared of her; almost trying to get a feeling of being the "Alpha Male". She threatens to "burn [Thea's] hair off," (45). Even though Thea "would rather go home alone! At once!" (45) Hedda holds Thea in her arms refusing to let her go home. Hedda has the biggest desire for power, showing that she will do almost anything to achieve it throughout the story. Even though everyone treats Hedda like she is a queen, she feels she is "Poor" (45) and that "fate has made [Thea] so rich!" (45).

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### Commandment #2 Broken: COMPLETE THOUGHT

*Read the paragraph below, paying special attention to the bolded text. The theme claim is invalid because the student has not phrased the claims as a complete thought. Rewrite the sentence in which the claim appears so that this commandment isn't broken. Highlight the revised theme claim.*

Throughout the story, Eilert Lovborg continuously changes so that the idea **of humans being manipulated** develops. Eilert constantly gets stuck between Thea and Hedda, and they always seem to have some sort of power over him. The motif of this particular paragraph is Hedda's driving force in Eilert's back and forth actions. Eilert was trying to be a good man who focused on his studies for Thea, but then Hedda was brought back to him, and she liked him when he was an alcoholic. Throughout the story, Lovborg continuously changed because of the idea of humans being manipulated.

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### Commandment #3 Broken: SPECIFIC LANGUAGE

*Read the paragraph below, paying special attention to the bolded text. The theme claim is invalid because the student's language is awkwardly phrased and unclear. Rewrite the sentence in which the claim appears so that this commandment isn't broken. Highlight the revised theme claim.*

Hedda Gabler from Henrik Ibsen Novel has changed in many ways since Act 1. Hedda proves that **Patriarchy and Close mindedness can be manipulated under any set of "living rules"**; Hedda doesn't care for "only firing [a pistol] in the air" (25) she has no need for any disturbance or help from a male. Manipulation may only be enough "If [She] could get [Tesman] into [politians] all the same?"(31) Hedda won't back down for no one's opinion not even Bracks question of "... Generality of women[s]... turn for duties" (32). Hedda has the biggest problem with the thought of patriarchy; a man question her and she probably "won't talk to you" (37). Regardless of who you are to her Hedda uses things for "[her] own sake" (41) throughout Ibsen book even though it may look as if it was for the goods of others.

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### Commandment #4 Broken: NO "I", "YOU"

*Read the paragraph below, paying special attention to the bolded text. The theme claim is invalid because the student includes first or second person pronouns in the claim. Rewrite the sentence in which the claim appears so that this commandment isn't broken. Highlight the revised theme claim.*

In Hedda Gabler, Ibsen uses Lövborg's desire to write a successful book to imply that **being competitive could benefit or go against you**. For example, Lövborg says people should "spare [themselves] the trouble" when referring to the manuscript (34). This goes to show how competitive Tesman and Lövborg are towards each other. Lövborg also has power and influence over Tesman because of the way Tesman looks up to him. Earlier in the play Tesman refers to Lövborg's writing as "remarkable soundness of judgement (29)." This goes to show the influence Lövborg has over Tesman as well as how Tesman wants to fill in his position. While this whole conflict develops Ibsen is trying to convey how even when in "love" people can still betray you. When Lövborg asked if "[Hedda] loves [Tesman]" it shows how he knows Hedda doesn't have strong feelings for Tesman (38). This interaction goes to show more of how the two men are competitive. This competitive nature will eventually back fire for one man and be beneficial for the other man.

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## Thematic Analysis Task – Peer Revision (Part Two)

Which theme claim commandment is broken here?

*Read the paragraph below, paying special attention to the bolded text. The theme claim is invalid because it violates one of the commandments. Using your theme claim notes, determine which commandment it violates; then, rewrite the sentence in which the claim appears so that no commandments are broken. Highlight the revised theme claim.*

Hedda Tesmen from the book Hedda Gabler by Henrik Ibsen portrays many different emotions throughout this book. Her mood changed vastly from the beginning to the end, developing a common theme of **manipulation that people will do just to gain power in the world**. Hedda especially, manipulates those around her just so then she can “have power to [mold] a human destiny” (45). She causes this fiasco of manipulation and controversy by simply making those around her believe in which she is above them and that they should be scared of her. Even she notices that “these impulses come over [her] all of the sudden and [she] can’t resist them” Act 2. She tends to play a game of he-said-she-said with her close acquaintances, causing for much corruption by “everything [she] touch[es] seems destined to turn into something mean and farical” Act 4. She uses this and continues to show that people will attempt to gain power to use the people around them as stepping stones, to seizing new opportunities, for climbing to the top.

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### Fixing Weaving and Citing Errors

*Read the each of the five paragraph excerpts below, paying special attention to the textual support. All of the quotations below are improperly woven and/or improperly cited. Use the guidelines on the Quotation Weaving & Citation Guide and your copy of the play to revise and edit each excerpt so that all of the quotations are properly woven and cited.*

- In the book it states “{Hedda} I don’t care about it,” (8) that shows some of the manipulating things Hedda does to get inside their head.

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- The quotation “you are not really happy.” (page 30) shows that Hedda only reveals what she wants, to everyone else her and Mr. Tesman are the perfect couple, they’re wealthy and seem to be truly in love, but; that isn’t exactly the case.

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- She {Hedda} is a symbol of fire she can be good and bad like fire. In Act III she says, “I agree with you,” (55) this is great because she manipulates people and lies to them.

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- Hedda, after hearing Eilert Lövborg had lost his manuscript, lies about having it and learns he is suicidal. She gives him one of her pistols and says “will you not try to-to do it beautifully”(59).

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- Hedda refers to the pistol as a memento. Hedda doesn’t think death is a bad thing. Sending Eilert away with a gun saying “and beautifully, Eilert Lövborg promise me that!”, encouraging him to google through with ending it all “beautifully”.

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