

# GREAT EXPECTATIONS

## THESIS PROMPT

Use what you have learned from reading the novel to develop a persuasive thesis statement **that identifies the importance, purpose, or significance of the thematic concept** that you have been tracking on your Theme Log for the past **two months**.

Draw on your time and experience with the novel, but **do not make a claim merely about the plot** of the novel. Your claim must be **based on the theme you have been tracking** and must make a statement **about the meaning of the novel as a whole**.

Refer to the **Thesis Notes** provided in class, and make use of the resources posted on **bentonenglish.com** as you develop a worthy thesis statement. A thesis proposal is due in class when you return from Thanksgiving Break.

**Your thesis statement MUST include:**

- The author (Charles Dickens) and title (Great Expectations, underlined).
- Your theme-based claim about the meaning of the novel as a whole
- Information from the novel that supports your claim

**Your thesis statement should NOT include:**

- “You”, “I”, “we”, or any related first/second-person pronouns
- The word “thesis”
- Informal language

**Remember, your thesis statement MUST meet the following criteria:**

- Make an assertion, not simply be obvious fact about the plot
- Take a bold stand on the novel’s meaning, not merely announce a theme
- Be a single sentence that previews what you intend to cover, not simply serve as a title
- Be narrow so that you can sufficiently support in about five paragraphs, not be too broad
- Be specifically worded so that your intended meaning is clear, avoiding any vague language
- Contain only one claim rather than two or more ideas – which would require multiple essays

