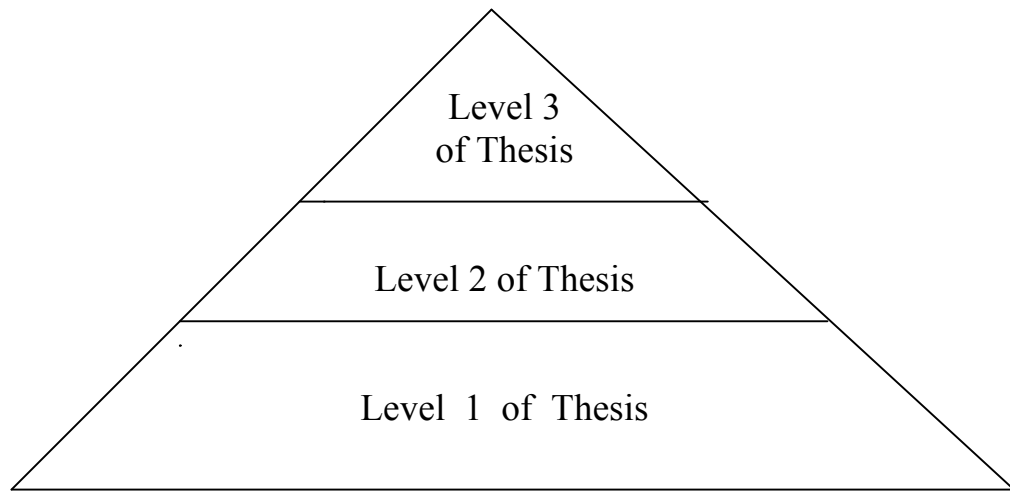


THESIS-BUILDING PYRAMID



Level 1 Observation: Interpretive Summary

- Ex. "Conrad uses imagery of dark and light in *Heart of Darkness*."

Level 2 Analysis: Answering How and Why Questions

- Makes the thesis a contestable argument with which a reasonable adult could disagree.
- Ex. "Conrad uses imagery of dark and light in *Heart of Darkness* to represent the contrast between civilization and savagery."

Level 3 Significance: Establish a "SO WHAT?"

- Provides a "so what?" conclusion about the broader implications of this argument/what this argument reveals about a larger issue OR
- "a twist" OR
- a critique OR
- a contradiction identified within the argument.
- Words and phrases that will help you make it to level 3: "ultimately suggesting...", "thereby showing/revealing...", "leading one to question/believe/say..."
- Ex. "Conrad uses imagery of dark and light in *Heart of Darkness* to represent the contrast between civilization and savagery, ultimately suggesting that civilization and savagery depend more on the state of an individual's mind than they do on the state of a culture."

Your goal for every paper is to develop a thesis statement that includes all 3 levels!