

1 WHAT DO I MEAN? HOW DO I KNOW? WHY DOES IT MATTER?

2 Thesis = 2 parts—your stand and why

3 Body paragraphs – try to not start with an author—try to start with a piece/subtopic of your
4 thesis!

5
6 Question:

7 Each author in this reading set defines the characteristics of friendship. In your essay,
8 take a position on this issue: is Emerson's claim—that a high standard of defining
9 friendship (what Emerson speaks of as "the higher the style we demand of friendship")
10 makes it harder to achieve in concrete situations—applicable to the other readings in this
11 set?

12 Analyzing the Question to identify basis for thesis:

13
14 part 1: is Emerson's claim applicable to the other readings in this? Yes to this extent and no in
15 these ways

16 part 2: Support your position by: analyzing Emerson's and at least three other authors'
17 **definitions of friendship presented in the reading set.**

18
19 So, what counts as their definitions?

20 How do the larger theoretical system impact the definitions, prob and solutions?

21 Experimental thesis statements:

22
23 Emerson's pessimistic claim that if we have high expectations for friends we won't have many
24 friends (7) is both applicable and not applicable to the definitions in Meilender, Hall and Parekh
25 in the sense that everyone identifies both the advantages and pitfalls of friendship but some are
26 more optimistic than Emerson.

27
28 Intro: Friendships are both inevitable and problematic. They are inevitable because we are social
29 creatures and problematic because sometimes our expectations exceed what we can really hope
30 to give and get. Many philosophers from every culture and religion have thought and written
31 about friendship as both necessary and imperfect. Each culture and religion has offered different
32 solutions and sources of the problems. Four philosophical-theological approaches demonstrate
33 some of the ways people have understood the nature of friendship: 19th American (i.e.
34 Emerson), Christian, Confucian and Hindu. (Thesis=)Emerson's pessimistic claim that if we
35 have high expectations for friends we won't have many friends (7) is both applicable and not
36 applicable to the definitions in Meilender, Hall and Parekh. --The main way they are applicable
37 is in the sense that everyone identifies both the advantages and pitfalls of friendship and the
38 differences are that some are more optimistic than Emerson.

39 Summary of the problems and promises of friendship (all my authors) 1) Overall definitions of
40 friendship 1. Discuss how all see friendship as 'natural' and therefore inevitable: "Friendship is
41 the most natural kind of relationship for people to have and create. We see in every society, from
42 past to present, from small to large, and from simple to complex, that people form voluntary
43 bonds of mutual help and affection(3, 7,12, 15).

44
45 "the different philosophical and theological systems help to explain the similarities & differences
46 in their definitions/theories"

47 what do they all have in common? Advantages and traps of friendship
48 difficulties of applying Emerson to the others?
49 summary of where Emerson is applicable:

50 they all see friendship as good

51 but there's no guarantees that a friendship will be good and will last

52 friendships can vary in terms of quality ('good' and 'bad')

53 they all see some common characteristics of good and bad

54 friendships are voluntary

55 goals of friendship?

56

57 NATURE OF FRIENDSHIP

58 1. Permanent vs. changing (p.4) Emerson accepts the idea that friends can come and go (5) "law
59 of nature is alternation..." He seems to see that as simply part of how the world works. Part of the
60 lack of permanence stems from the fact that the basis or criteria for a friendship seems to be
61 feelings: "The instinct of affection..." (5) And whether they have something in common and if
62 the friend/potential friend is of the same quality as oneself.

63

64 2. Because he has these high expectations but no way to reach them he spends a lot of time
65 fantasizing and wishing

66

67

68

69