

UCLA WRITING PROGRAMS

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Thesis Building (Journal and Group Work): Carson, Boyle

Journal:

Imagine that you need to convince a group of community leaders how dangerous even modern pesticides still are: though DDT has been banned, the city is considering heavily spraying another, legal chemical—both in rural and residential areas—to eradicate a voracious insect species that has been damaging citrus trees. As part of your case, you are allowed to give the committee just one of the two texts: Carson’s or Boyle’s. Which would you choose? Why? Since we’re practicing writing academic theses, avoid the first person and instead directly argue for the relevance and persuasiveness of your chosen text. Keep in mind the genre, style, focus, and humor (or lack thereof) of each text. The thesis needs to mention both works.

First brainstorm (5 min) then draft the thesis (10 min)

2-3 sentences

Addresses prompt directly

Text-based

Explanatory

Groups:

Get together with your partners, read each other’s theses, and choose one to revise. I’ll take a look at the revision and then you’ll share it with the class.