**Thesis-Building Pyramid**

**Level 3**

**of Thesis**

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**Level 2 of Thesis**

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**Level 1 of Thesis**

**Level 1 Observation: Interpretive Summary or Basic Opinion**

* Ex #1: “Richard Rodriguez is incorrect that it is necessary to only speak English to assimilate…”
* Ex #2: “Lysley Tenorio uses breath and breathing as symbolism in his story “The Brothers.*”*

**Level 2 Adds Analysis and Reasons: Answers How and Why Questions**

+ Makes the thesis a contestable argument with which a reasonable adult could disagree

* Ex #1: “…because he fails to consider what a benefit it is to be multilingual and how integral to one’s identity a person’s native language may be.
* Ex #2: “Tenorio does this to represent the constriction Erica feels due to her family’s lack of acceptance of her gender identity.”

**Level 3 Significance: Establishes a “So what?” for your readers**

+ Explains the broader implications of the argument and what this argument reveals about a larger issue / why it should matter to readers

* Words and phrases that will help you make a level 3 are: “ultimately suggesting…” “thereby showing/revealing…” “leading one to question/believe/say…”
* Ex #1: “Ultimately, the way one decides to speak is a personal decision, but educational policies should not force people to give up home languages, nor should they be based on Rodriguez’s single experience.
* Ex #2: “Tenorio’s use of symbolism is so powerful that it eventually leads his readers to realize that refusing to accept a loved one because of their gender expression or sexuality is not only damaging to a relationship, but also can be deadly.”

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