

FOR REFERENCE. ATTACH ONLY THE FIRST SECTION TO YOUR ESSAY.

Below you will find a good introduction for a short paper that requires a single word theme or a paper that requires a short-phrased theme.

The question posed to the student for a single-word theme would be something akin to: "Using two words, identify a theme that ties together these things from the 1960s: The Beatles, the Vietnam War protests, and hippies."

An A-worthy example using in-line APA:

The two-word theme that ties the Beatles, the Vietnam War protests, and hippies together is "youthful expression." During the 1960s, these three things attracted the Baby Boomers—many of whom were coming into early adulthood—who had the money, freedom, and time to take part in the larger cultural and political movements going on around them; however, these things would not have attracted older adults since they were raised in a period that valued conformity above all else (Peters, 1989, p. 52). The Beatles appealed to the youth of American during the '60s because of their readily-understood lyrics, their use of newly-developed electronics in their arrangements, and their boyish-but-still-handsome looks (Jackson, 2001, p. 98). In essence, the Beatles expressed themselves and their music in a way that mimicked their young audiences' desires to similarly express themselves and their feelings in public. Later, when the Vietnam War protests broke out in earnest, these young adults found they could join in and express their outrage at the War along with others who looked, acted, and spoke like them, and not their parents (Sheffield, 1978). Lastly, when as the youth of the 1960s grew up, they freed themselves completely from their parents' homes and finances, but looked for ways to continue expressing themselves in a unique way. They found that their outward forms of representation were accepted by a new youth movement, the hippies, a group that often welcomed older youth in the phase just prior to middle adulthood (Peters, 1989, p. 89). In essence, while there have always been young people, the Beatles, the Vietnam War, and the hippie generation were the right people and events to take place at a time when young people were in a position to fully express themselves through and within these elements of cultural America.

Comment [B6]: As required, the theme is two words and the author didn't resort to cliché or merely copying two of the words already used.

Comment [B7]: In this sentence, the student uses an authoritative citation to back the overall argument they've constructed around "youthful expression."

Bad (Horrible) Example One for the question: Find one overall theme that ties anticommunism to McCarthyism, anticommunism, and the Red Scare. This theme should be defined in terms of a single word.

Passion is a word that defines the core arguments that of McCarthyism and Anti-Communism. Passion is something that is very obvious while reading the three articles during the time period covered within this paper, between 1947 and 1954. As a result, this paper will look at the differences and similarities of Anti-Communism and McCarthyism and the passion that surrounds both ends of the fight.

Comment [B8]: You should never tell your reader what "this paper" will do. They should be able to know these things from a well-crafted introduction.

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Bad Example Two

The overall theme that describes anticommunism during this period is distrust. Anticommunism derived from the distrust of governments or individuals that would destroy the current civil liberties and rights of the people for a totalitarianism government. Anticommunism is the bettering of the peoples standards of living. By maintain the people's rights both political and civil liberties the country will grow and prosper as a nation. Anticommunism also helped educate citizens of a communist regime. Anticommunism would uproot and stop activities, liberties, and voice on how the government is ran in the democratic nation.

Comment [B9]: At this point, the student simply forgot "distrust" and started to go off on a tangent.