

Example of Writing a Thematic Essay

By [w1ter.com](http://w1ter.com)

## Example of Writing a Thematic Essay

### **Topic:** Recruitment of Terrorists

#### I. Sample Introduction of a Thematic Essay

Terrorism is a global problem, which appears to be spreading despite an increment in the efforts to suppress its growth. Basically, the prevention of recruitment is a crucial counterterrorism strategy. Moreover, its efficacy is dependent on the understanding of the terrorists' recruitment techniques. In turn, the terrorist groups' recruitment methods focus on the target's identity crisis, which puts a potential member at risk of falling for the 'appeal' of terrorism.

#### II. Examples of Body Paragraphs in a Thematic Essay

##### A. Motivation

An individual's desire to be part of a movement that is effecting a radical change in society is a significant motivator for participation in terrorism. For example, recent studies show that terrorist groups begin conversations with most young recruits on social media platforms, which discuss topics concerning social, political, and economic oppression (Jacks, 2020). Basically, this finding suggests that young people in contemporary society have a desire to correct the 'wrongs' in society as a means of identity. Consequently, terrorists use the increased sensitivity to social injustices as a common ground to initiate and build a relationship with a prospective recruit. In turn, the youth's strong desire to do something to stop social injustices that their respective governments ignore leaves them vulnerable to radicalization by terrorist groups.

##### B. Religious Beliefs

Fanatical religious belief may drive an individual to support or participate in terrorism for the sake of being part of a group. According to Mohammed (2020), the constant pressure from religious parents causes the blind indoctrination of adolescents and young adults, which enables recruiters from terrorist groups to present religious concepts as justifications for terrorism, for example, the holy war. In this case, Mohammed concedes that the mosque is an ideal site for the recruitment of terrorism because of the presence of youth with highly impressionable minds. Moreover, youths depend on teachings at places of worship for knowledge that defines their perspective of the world. As a result, terrorist recruiters disguising as spiritual leaders can easily nurture fanatical beliefs, which endorse terrorist activities. Eventually, a feeling of separation from the conservative believers pushes them to pursue groups that share their fanatical religious beliefs.

##### C. Recruiting

The loss of a family member to counterterrorism activities may act as a motivation factor for grievers that are trying to re-establish their identities because they no longer fit in the

traditional social structures. For instance, Tobias (2020) argues that recruiters prey on the pain of grieving family members by offering them retribution as a solution to the overwhelming feeling of incompleteness. After the death of a family member, the emotional turmoil increases the susceptibility of individuals to the idea that terrorist acts are an appropriate response to the 'killers' of their loved ones. Often, recruitment occurs during this unstable state and encourages the individual to relieve the pain each day, which results in permanent erosion of their former identity. Accordingly, grievors may find themselves as sympathizers of terrorism, which leads to active or passive participation.

### III. Sample Conclusion of a Thematic Essay

Most members of terrorist organizations experience an identity crisis at the time of recruitment. Basically, the need to gain membership to a group, which fights against social injustices, tolerates fanatical religious beliefs, or seeks revenge for the death of loved ones, is a sign that identity crisis is common characteristics in recruits. In turn, current counterterrorism initiatives should seek to break the cycle of recruitment, which will weaken terrorist groups.