How to Write a Thematic Essay

Name a central problem that the characters face.

Reflect on parts of the story that pertain to that issue.

Think "what is the story teaching me about this issue?"

Impact.

Consider our readings and discussions of the short stories, the viewing of "Butterfly Circus," and your own personal experiences.
What commentary can you offer about the development of courage and how it can impact a person’s life?
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Text: Butterfly Circus

Name a central problem that the characters face. Will is struggling with self-esteem.

Reflect on parts of the story that pertain to that issue. dependent on others, tried to run away from problems, pent-up anger and shame, river scene where HE made the change

Think "what is the story teaching me about this issue?" It takes courage to change your attitude and actions. and that leads to

Impact. He gained confidence and made a difference in the lives of others.
Scarlet Ibis
The Most Dangerous Game
The Lady, or the Tiger?
The Jump

Personal Experience

Name a central problem that the characters face.
Reflect on parts of the story that pertain to that issue.
Think "what is the story teaching me about this issue?"
Impact.
Consider our readings and discussions of the short stories, the viewing of "Butterfly Circus," and your own personal experiences. What commentary can you offer about the DEVELOPMENT OF COURAGE and how it can IMPACT a person’s life?

**Decision Time:** Based on the strong claims you developed from each text or video, which of the texts or video would best argue the prompt?

Remember: The goal of argumentative writing is to persuade your audience that your ideas are more valid than someone else’s. And you use rhetoric to do that.
Paraphrase

QUOTE
~ To rewrite an idea in your own words.
~ Written in your words using your own voice and writing style.
~ Avoid plagiarism

SUMMARIZE
~ To retell the main idea of a text in your own words.
~ A brief, more condensed version.
~ Includes key academic words, but does not copy author's sentences.

QUOTE
~ To rewrite an idea EXACTLY as it appears.
~ Copied directly from the text.
~ Includes quotation marks.
~ MUST CREDIT the author.
~ Does not include your opinion.
~ Includes the MAIN IDEA and KEY details.
I. Introduction
II. Body paragraph using one text/video
III. Body paragraph using other text/video
IV. Body paragraph using personal experience
V. Conclusion
I. Introduction
   A. definition of courage or quote about courage
   B. very brief summary of texts/videos you will present (include title and authors)
   C. strong claims
II. Body paragraph using one text/video
    It’s beginning to look a lot like chunking .... everywhere you go ...
III. Body paragraph using other text/video
    It’s beginning to look a lot like chunking .... everywhere you go ...
IV. Body paragraph using personal experience
    It’s beginning to look a lot like chunking .... everywhere you go ...
V. Conclusion
    Review your points of argument and conclude with the impact it has on the human condition. Just a short summary of all you have been trying to tell us.