

# Huckleberry Finn Research Paper Topics

Once your topic is selected, your topic must be turned into a specific, unified, and arguable thesis statement.

All tentative thesis statements must be approved by the teacher.

Tentative Thesis Statement and Questions due on \_\_\_\_\_ .

1. Investigation of one (or more if related) theme(s) in *Huckleberry Finn*.
2. Investigation of one (or more if related) symbol(s) in *Huckleberry Finn*.
3. Investigation of Title: Meaning and appropriateness of the word "Adventures" in reference to Huck.
4. Character study: Huck, Jim, Tom, Pap etc. (Choose one)
5. Huck's motives in his relationship/friendship with Jim. (both good and bad)
6. Huck's decision to stay with Jim (both self-serving and selfless)
7. Huck's conclusions and judgments about life and people.
8. Huck's relationship with Tom – At first Huck idolizes him; then he begins to question his actions...
9. Comparison and/or contrast of Huck and Tom.
10. Comparison and/or contrast of Pap and Widow Douglas
11. Comparison and/or contrast of Tom and Jim in how they relate to Huck.
12. The importance of Pap as a character. What the author achieves from including him.
13. Investigation of a minor character: Buck Grangerford, Duke and the King, others? Why does the author include this minor character?
14. A reader's perspective: Many characters lie in the novel. Are all the lies of equal consequence? Are some of the lies "ok"? Are lies ever justified?
15. A reader's perspective: Families and what constitutes a family are discussed in the novel. Does Huck have a family? Does Huck have many families?
16. Point of View in the novel: Huck as an effective or ineffective child narrator.
17. The role of "social class" in the events of the novel.
18. Novel as a reflection of time period.
19. Novel as a reflection of author.
20. Novel as a reflection of literary genre.
21. The use of morality in the novel. Where does it come from? Who enforces it?
22. The role of superstition in the novel.
23. The theme of journey. There are many types.
24. The use of satire.
25. Effectiveness of the ending and the introduction of Tom. Does it work? Are there problems?
26. Individual Topic – Must be approved!