***Theme Based Essay Questions for Gatsby:***

1. Write a paper four to six paragraphs on the theme of ***Alienation*** in “The Great Gatsby” At one party, Nick observes, “People disappeared, reappeared, made plans to go somewhere, and then lost each other, searched for each other, found each other a few feet away.” Soon afterward, Tom breaks his lover’s nose. Does Fitzgerald use parties to highlight his characters’ failures to relate to one another? Do Gatsby’s parties reflect genuine celebration or a kind of mourning? Friendship Nick is the only person, aside from Gatsby’s father, who attends the funeral. What kind of friendship do Nick and Gatsby have? What does Nick derive from this friendship? Is it true friendship, or does Nick simply pity Gatsby his “romantic readiness”?
2. Write a paper four to six paragraphs on the theme ***Identity*** In Chapter 7, we learn of Gatsby’s origins as James Gatz of North Dakota. In the novel, Gatsby has become his alter ego, leaving James Gatz behind as he travels the world as Dan Cody’s steward. Was Gatsby doomed to tragedy as long as he disguised his Midwestern origins in favor of a more extravagant, fictional biography? Is Nick judging Gatsby for these imaginative exploits or admiring this skill?
3. Write a Paper four to six paragraphs on ***The American Dream*** In an era of new technology, new opportunity, and artistic expansion, does Fitzgerald’s novel comment on American morality and idealism? Is The Great Gatsby a satire or critique of American life? If not, why not