

And" and "but" are textual themes. Consider the written sentences below, from a grant proposal: In this project, we lay the ground work for developing a potentially trans- formational approach to assessment in the 21st century. How is "but" functioning here to create a context or framework for interpretation (the role of themes)? What difference would it have made if the speaker had said "I did partic- ipate in it. Sara, however, wasn't able to"? Today, work that requires only basic skills flows overseas where labor is cheaper. Does this help explain the choice of themes?