Some Possible Thesis Statements/Topic Outlines for Setting Analysis

The Valley of Ashes reflects a tone of despair which represents the characters’ hopelessness and the futility of the American Dream.

* Description of the land
* Description of George
* Description of Myrtle

Although the luxury of East Egg contrasts sharply with the gloom of the Valley of Ashes, the residents of both places feel a sense of hopelessness and despair.

* Description of East Egg vs. Description of Valley of Ashes
* Description of George and Myrtle
* Description of Tom and Daisy

Although the luxury of East Egg suggests that the Buchanans have achieved the American Dream, underneath the glamour lies a deep dissatisfaction, suggesting that the American Dream is actually a myth.

* Descriptions of East Egg/Buchanans’ house
* Tom’s appearance vs. reality
* Daisy’s appearance vs reality

West Egg represents the unrealistic aspirations of people to achieve the American Dream.

* Description of Nick (house, goals, etc.)
* Description of Gatsby’s house
* Description of Gatsby