Practice with Criticism

Critic Everett Zimmerman writes in “Pride and Prejudice in Pride and Prejudice”:

The meanings that “pride” and “prejudice” acquire are related to the central theme of all of Jane Austen’s novels – the limitations of human vision. As developed in the book, the qualities of pride and prejudice contain both an opposition and an affinity. Pride is a detachment from other human beings in which the self is not seen as involved with others but as superior to them, as unconcerned. However, characters in Jane Austen’s works cannot remain aloof: with or without intention they are drawn into the affairs of others. Failure to recognize this involvement results in a renunciation of responsibility or happiness. Prejudice is the opposite of pride: the self is completely involved with others, and everything is interpreted as it affects the self. Although the inevitable involvement between others and the self is acknowledged, judgment is entirely distorted. Both qualities, pride and prejudice, result in a severe limitation of human vision and are essentially selfish in that they start from an egoistic attitude; one either severs oneself from others or limits one’s concern for them to narrow self-interest.

Use textual evidence and references to at least two characters to either support or refute this argument. Write at least two paragraphs.