

Name: _____

Date: _____

Writing Thesis Statements

- What is a thesis?
 - A single sentence which makes a specific claim about a topic or text and guides the rest of your essay and argument.
 - In an essay, the thesis will usually occur as the last sentence of your first paragraph.
 - It lets your reader know what to expect in the rest of your essay.
- A thesis must include...
 - The title and author of the text
 - A specific claim about an universal idea
 - How that claim is supported in the text (3 examples of literary devices)

Step 1: How to start?

- * Open your thesis with an introductory phrase which starts with an “-ing” verb
- * This verb will describe what the speaker is doing or saying in the text

Step 2: Finding Examples

- * Review and annotate the text to look for literary devices
- * Examples can include figurative language, writing style, plot characteristics, etc.

Step 3: Modifiers

- * Once you find your device, examples, you need to describe them with a modifier
- * Choose an adjective to describe how each device is used in the text

Step 4: Universal Idea

- * Analyze the text and look for a theme/universal idea
- * Consider what the author is trying to convey
- * Look to your device examples, what is going on in those quotes?
- * After you identify a theme, make a specific claim about it

Thesis Statement Template:

_____ -ing _____
(verb) (summarize text- include “key words of essay prompt)

in _____ , _____ uses
(title) (author)

_____ , _____ , _____ , _____
(modifier) (device #1) (modifier) (device #2)

and _____ in order to _____
(modifier) (device #3)

(universal idea - answers the question “why?”)

Example Thesis:

Warning audiences of hell and God’s wrath in “Sinner’s in the Hands of an Angry God,”
Jonathan Edwards uses an ominous tone, vivid imagery, and threatening similes in order to
illustrate the bleak and intense religious beliefs of Puritans.