

Crafting a Thesis Statement

Literary Essay Writing



Answer Sheet

A **thesis statement** states what you believe and what you intend to prove.

A thesis statement...

- ✓ unifies an essay.
- ✓ is clear and specific.
- ✓ can be supported with strong evidence.

A **“hook”** is a sentence that grabs the reader’s attention. Choose one type of hook to start your introduction.

To hook the reader from the start:

- ✓ use a quote from the text or a character.
- ✓ include descriptive words that paint a picture.
- ✓ pose a question.

Directions: Read the example introductory paragraph below. Draw a star next to the sentence with the “hook” and underline the thesis.

★ **Have you ever experienced the positive impact that a friend can have on your life? It’s hard to imagine what life would be like without our friends. In the story *Josie’s Journey*, Tina Wyatt shows the importance of friendship in our lives. Specifically, through Josie’s experiences both in her old and new schools, readers learn that friends can offer support to each other, even if they live far away.**

Directions: Refer to the book you selected for your literary essay and complete the tasks below.

Write a hook for your introductory paragraph.

Need some help generating ideas?

Writers make claims about “big ideas,” such as:



- ✓ how and why a character shows growth
- ✓ a lesson/moral a character learned
- ✓ a theme and how it relates to the world

Write a one-sentence thesis statement.

Jot down three reasons that support your thesis statement.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____