

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Grisanti ELA 8

Book/Film Title \_\_\_\_\_

Author \_\_\_\_\_

**PART I -- THE THESIS!**



**(The backbone of the essay!)**

A **thesis statement** tells your reader exactly what your entire essay will focus on. The thesis should stem directly from the topic that you decided to write about.

**A thesis statement:**

- > is a sentence found in the introduction
- > tells your reader what your entire essay will discuss
- > must use “key words” from the writing prompt
- > answers the prompt in **one single sentence**

**WRITING STRONG THESIS STATEMENTS**

Directions:

1. Underline the **key words** in the topic/prompt. See below.
2. Decide what you think, based on the book you read.
3. **Re-write** the topic/prompt **using the key words** and information from the book you read.

**Copy down the prompt you are going to use:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Key words in Topic/Question= \_\_\_\_\_

Thesis Statement (use Key Words!): \_\_\_\_\_

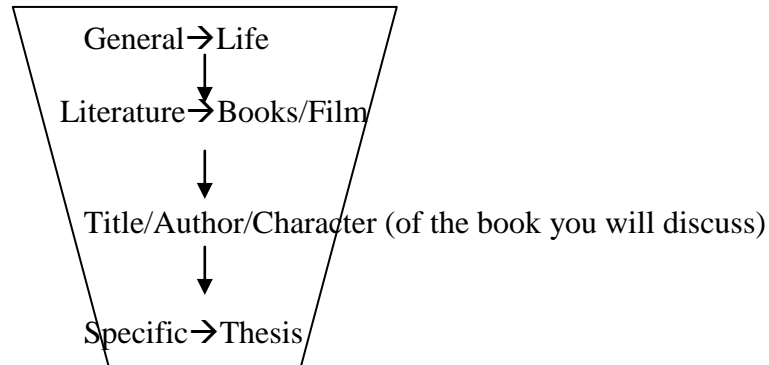
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## PART II -- THE INTRODUCTION

The purpose of an introduction

- > get your reader interested in reading the essay
- > tells your reader the book, author, (and character, usually) that you will discuss
- > tells your reader what you will discuss about the book/character → includes your **thesis**

➤ Think of your introduction as a funnel.



➤ Start with a general statement about *life*. This is called a *hook*.

○ The *hook* must be related to your thesis.

▪ **Example:**

If your thesis is about how relationships affect a character,

THEN

your *hook* should be about how relationships affect people.

### INTRODUCTION

Start with a **Hook** (see above)

#### EXAMPLE


*The relationships we have affect us in many ways.*

End with your Thesis =

*Jackie's relationship with Simon had a negative impact on the direction her life takes.*

**Introductions:** The purpose of an introduction is to lure your reader in with an engaging opening statement (a *hook*) and then to work your way, step-by-step (life→literature→the book you read→your thesis), until you get to your thesis statement.

➤ Think of your introduction as a funnel.  Go from the *general* (big) to the *specific* (skinny). By *general*, I mean *life*. By *specific*, I mean *your thesis*.

➤  The key is to identify the **overall** topic (for example “Everyone faces obstacles within their lives” or “The difficulty of knowing how to handle obstacles within one’s own life”) in order to make a *general* statement that will seamlessly move toward your *thesis*.

### INTRODUCTION

Start with a Hook (relates to the *Topic*, not just the book) =-----  
-----  
-----  
-----  
-----

\*\*Remember to include the title of the novel and the author’s name in summary sentences!

End with your **Thesis** = (see page 1) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## PART III -- THE BODY

The purpose of the body is

> to prove your thesis!

DO NOT!

> retell the story

DO!

> begin each body paragraph with a *topic sentence (TS)* (see below)

> use examples and details to prove your points

*Topic Sentences (TS)*...

➤ Let your reader know what the paragraph will focus on

Therefore..

➤ An effective TS restates your thesis (use different wording, if possible!)

○ When using *2 or more body* paragraphs

▪ Restate only the **part** that applies to that paragraph

### BODY #1

Topic Sentence (part of thesis) = -----

-----

-----

Supporting exs/details =

**BODY #2**

Topic Sentence (restate all/part of thesis) = -----  
-----  
-----

Supporting exs/details =

**BODY #3 (if necessary)**

Topic Sentence (restate all/part of thesis) = -----  
-----  
-----

Supporting exs/details =

## CONCLUSION

Opening Sentence (Directly relates to *or restates* thesis) = -----

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Key Points to Reiterate =

Closing Line (leave readers thinking how this relates to *their lives*) = -----

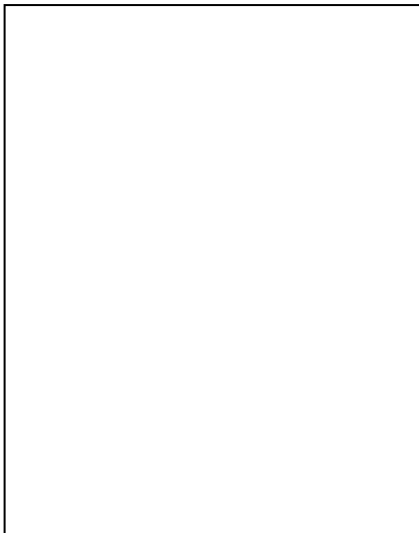
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*The order of the body paragraphs should have an **organizational pattern** (and the order should match the order indicated in the thesis statement).*

*Exs:*

- *chronological*
- *degree of importance*
- *weakest argument to strongest*
- *cause and effect*

Thesis:



Topic Sentences for body paragraphs:

