

NAME: _____ PERIOD: _____ DATE: _____

The Thesis Statement

A THESIS:

The thesis statement tells your reader what to expect: it is a restricted, precisely worded declarative sentence that states the purpose of your essay -- the point you are trying to make. Without a carefully conceived thesis, an essay has no chance of success.

EXAMPLES:

- (1) The fate of the main characters in *Antigone* illustrates the danger of excessive pride.
- (2) The imagery in Dylan Thomas' poem "Fern Hill" reveals the ambiguity of humans' relationship with the world.
- (3) The conflict found in *Jurassic Park*, *Into the Wild*, and *Swiss Army Man* proves that man cannot control nature.
- (4) The lessons within *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, *A Walk to Work*, and *Creed* justify that overcoming obstacles is significant in shaping one's identity.
- (5) The lesson in these three texts demonstrates how one's success is only possible with a supportive community of loving friends and family.

The thesis statement for this literary analysis should fall at the end of your introductory paragraph.

OUR THESIS:

Our thesis statement for this literary analysis should not merely state the lesson that is in *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, your graphic novel, and another piece of literature, but it should make statement as to why that lesson is important. It should declare what someone who adheres to that lesson is able to do as a result of it. It should also be strongly worded, so you want the word choice and vocabulary to elicit curiosity from your reader. You want your audience to lean in to your essay after reading your introduction in order to see how you are going to provide evidence and support for this claim that you are making in the thesis statement.

EXAMPLES:

Not Good:

The lessons in these three texts show that you have to dream big to get big.

Meh:

The lessons in these three texts show that one can be big in life by dreaming bigger.

Okay:

The lessons in these three texts show that one can achieve greatness by following their dreams.

Good:

The lessons in these three texts demonstrate that it is necessary to go after your dreams in order to achieve greatness.

Great:

The lessons in these three texts demonstrate that greatness is only possible with impossible dreams.

Your Thesis Statement

YOUR LESSON

Write out the lesson from your 3 texts in your own words below:

Why do you think this lesson important?

How do the characters in the 3 texts change as a result of learning this lesson?

YOUR THESIS:

- (1) Not merely stating your lesson
- (2) Make a statement about your lesson
- (3) Strongly worded, arguable declaration
- (4) Requiring evidence and support to back and convince your reader

Synthesize your responses above into a good thesis statement below:

Try to write that thesis statement again simpler and stronger below in order to be great:
