

### Thesis Statement Template:

In the \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in the blank with short story, poem, novel, essay, or play and then the name of your text; e.g. the play *Macbeth*), \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in the name of your author or in case of poetry, the author's speaker; e.g. Shakespeare) uses \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in some literary element; e.g. the theme of duty) to express/discuss/critique/explore (choose one) the idea that \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in idea you want to talk about in your paper; e.g. Macbeth is torn between his love of king and country and his love of self) by/through/because (choose one) \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in with either literary elements or major points of discussion that interest you e.g. verbal irony, paradox, and litotes -- these are your sub-points and will be the basis for your topic sentences).

### Sample Thesis Statements:

In the play *Macbeth*, Shakespeare uses the theme of duty to explore the idea that Macbeth is torn between his love of king and country and his love of self through the use of verbal irony, paradox, and litotes.

OR

In the short story "Why I Live at the P.O.," Eudora Welty uses irony to express the idea that the fragmentation of the modern family has its roots in the dysfunction of traditional values through Sister's relationship with her mother, male relatives, and Stella Rondo.

OR

In the poem "A Few Verses Upon the Burning of Our House," Anne Bradstreet uses the burning down of the speaker's home as an extended metaphor for personal salvation through the speaker's attachment to the worldly home she loved, the speaker's praise of God's justness in taking what ultimately belonged to him, and the speaker's final longing for her heavenly home.

The Sentence Outline is written using complete sentences. In some cases, you will have to use more than one sentence. You must also use proper MLA parenthetical citations for the quotations.

## Sentence Outline

### Title

- I. Introductory Paragraph
  - A. Hook/Attention Grabber
  - B. Thesis Statement
- II. Body Paragraph 1 – Topic Sentence (the language of the topic sentence should use the language of the thesis statement. She needs to make sure that she supports the thesis statement while addressing only one of her sub-points. If we were using the above example, the first topic sentence will read: In the play *Macbeth*, Shakespeare uses the theme of duty to explore the idea that Macbeth is torn between his love for king and country and his love of self through his use of verbal irony.)
  - A. Supporting Detail #1
    1. Sentence introducing the quotation and linking it to the supporting detail
    2. Sentence containing the quotation
    3. Sentence explaining the quotation and how it supports your topic sentence
  - B. Supporting Detail #2
    1. Sentence introducing the quotation and linking it to the supporting detail
    2. Sentence containing the quotation
    3. Sentence explaining the quotation and how it supports your topic sentence
- III. Body Paragraph 2 – Topic Sentence (the language of the topic sentence should use the language of the thesis statement. She needs to make sure that she supports the thesis statement while addressing only one of her sub-points. If we were using the above example, the first topic sentence will read: The theme of duty is used to explore the idea that Macbeth is torn between his love for king and country and his love of self through his use of paradox.)
  - A. Supporting Detail #1
    1. Sentence introducing the quotation and linking it to the supporting detail
    2. Sentence containing the first quotation
    3. Sentence explaining the quotation and linking it to the topic sentence
  - B. Supporting Detail #2

1. Sentence introducing the quotation and linking it to the supporting detail
  2. Sentence containing the quotation
  3. Sentence explaining the quotation and linking it to the topic sentence
- IV. Body Paragraph 3 – Topic Sentence (the language of the topic sentence should use the language of the thesis statement. She needs to make sure that she supports the thesis statement while addressing only one of her sub-points. If we were using the above example, the first topic sentence will read: Shakespeare uses the theme of duty to explore the idea that Macbeth is torn between his love for king and country and his love of self through his use of litotes.)
- A. Supporting Detail #1
    1. Sentence introducing the quotation and linking it to the supporting detail
    2. Sentence containing the quotation
    3. Sentence explaining the quotation and linking it to the topic sentence
  - B. Supporting Detail #2
    1. Sentence introducing the quotation and linking it to the supporting detail
    2. Sentence containing the quotation
    3. Sentence explaining the quotation and linking it to the topic sentence
- V. Conclusion
- A. Re-state your main points explaining how they have proven your thesis

Make a broad appeal to your audience by either relating the point of your paper to a larger, significant issue or going back to your original attention