Thesis Statement Helps

Thesis Statement Formulas

Specific topic + Attitude/Angle/Argument = Thesis

What you plan to argue + how you plan to argue it = Thesis

Thesis Statement Stems

If you're not sure whether you have a good thesis statement, see whether you can fit your ideas into one of these basic patterns.

* [Something] *[does something]* because [reason(s)].
	+ [Conrad’s works ][reveal the ugly truth of imperialism][through negative characterization and outcome of plot events.]
* Because [reason(s)], *[something]* *[does something]*.
	+ Because [Conrad depicts the Company employees negatively—including the ends they meet--] [*Heart of Darkness* and *The Secret Sharer*] reveal the ugly truth of imperialism.
* Although [opposing evidence], [reasons] show [Something] *[does something]*.
	+ Although [critics denounce Conrad’s works as racist] [diction analysis and plot examination] reveal [*Heart of Darkness* and *The Secret Sharer*] [to be works that blast racial stereotypes.]

Sample Thematic Thesis Statement Stems

* Our Town explores two themes, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (theme one) and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (theme two), which are developed through \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (first way developed) and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (second way developed).
* The themes \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (theme one) and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (theme two) are developed throughout Our Town by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (first way developed) and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (second way developed).