

Outline

Thesis: Statement goes here.

- I. Introductory Paragraph
 - a. Hook
 - b. Thesis
- II. Statement
 - a. Transition Sentence
 - b. Introduce/Inform
 - c. Cite
 - d. Explanation
- III. Statement
 - a. Transition Sentence
 - b. Introduce/Inform
 - c. Cite
 - d. Explanation
- IV. Statement
 - a. Transition Sentence
 - b. Introduce/Inform
 - c. Cite
 - d. Explanation
- V. Conclusion Paragraph—Synthesis [Considering the points that you've identified, what is the universal implication that still makes this 17th century play applicable today?



I.C.E. Example

Macbeth seems to indicate that he doesn't have a problem acting in ways society would deem immoral, even when he is limited in his capacity to do so. For example, he says, "And like a rat without a tail, I'll do, I'll do, and I'll do" (1.3.9-10). Macbeth's simile comparing himself to a tail-less rat suggests his own knowledge that he is aware of his limitations. A rat without a tail may be an animal that doesn't function properly or meet the expected "norm" for rats, but it can still get what it wants, despite its missing a body part that is necessary to the function of a rat. It seems, then, that with his comparison of himself to a tail-less rat, Macbeth suggests he is aware that something is missing, but that he will continue to pursue the object of his desire—his "cheese" so to speak—regardless of what it takes to do so.

Avoid statements such as the following:

Shakespeare proves in his play *Macbeth* that...

This quote proves that _____

Shakespeare is trying to argue that _____

Shakespeare says that _____

Shakespeare claims that _____

Instead, build in a little "shock absorbent" into your claims:

Shakespeare seems to convey

Shakespeare suggests

It seems

The use of _____ implies _____

It would appear that _____

Through the use of strong female characters, Shakespeare seems to suggest that...

Statements such as these provide for adequate wiggle room when defending your claim.

Topics that are both wide (general) enough and pointed enough so as to be arguable:

- inevitability of fate
- the corrosive nature of power
- the universal nature of guilt
- inescapability of consequences for moral trespasses
- women are weaker than men
- men are weaker than women
- psychological effects of killing other human beings
- the darkness of human nature
- nature of morality
- the animal nature of man
- pursuit of power and its effects on those who pursue
- the effects of greed and ambition on the individual
- ~~KARMA (definitely not)~~
- Biblical references (ABSOLUTELY)
- The role of women in society
- Crime and punishment
- Nihilism and the universe

Thesis Statement Template

Based on _____ in his play, _____,
author, _____, seems to imply that _____
is _____ due to _____.

Thesis Statement Model

Based on behavior and the outcomes of the behavior of the
central characters in his play, *Macbeth*, William

Shakespeare seems to suggest that the animal nature of man
is untamable due to the human desire of self-preservation.

Your turn: