

3.7 Developing a literary thesis statement

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 13 marks

KEY WORDS thesis statement 论点句 • line of reasoning 推理线索

Objective

Build the skills to write a **thesis statement** 论点句.

You must be able to:

- state what a thesis statement expresses
- state what it requires
- state what a thesis may do about the line of reasoning
- state what the CED explicitly does not require

1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a task used later.

■ What it expresses

A **thesis statement** expresses an interpretation of a literary text, and requires a defense through use of textual evidence and a line of reasoning, both of which are explained in an essay through commentary.

■ Interpretation

An interpretation, not an observation. “The novel has two narrators” is checkable; “the novel’s second narrator exists to discredit the first” is arguable.

■ Previewing

A thesis statement may preview the development or line of reasoning of an interpretation. May, not must.

■ What is not required

This is not to say that a thesis statement must list the points of an interpretation, literary elements to be analyzed, or specific evidence to be used. The CED goes out of its way to say a thesis need not be a list.

2 Practice

2.1 State what a thesis statement expresses and requires. [2]

2.2 State what the CED explicitly does not require. [3]

2.3 A thesis is an interpretation.

(a) Distinguish it from an observation. [2]

(b) State the force of “may preview”. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 A thesis statement requires a defense through textual evidence and [1]

A	B
C	D

A a line of reasoning

B a bibliography

C a summary

D a title

3.2 The CED says a thesis statement [1]

A	B
C	D

A must list the elements to be analysed

B need not list them

C must name the evidence

D must be one word

3.3 A student writes: “This essay will discuss imagery, structure and tone.”

(a) State why this is not a thesis. [1]

(b) Rewrite it as one. [2]
