

9.6 Developing a literary thesis statement

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 18 marks**

KEY WORDS literary argument thesis 文学论证论点

Objective

Build the skills to write a **literary argument thesis** 文学论证论点.

You must be able to:

- state what a thesis expresses and requires
- explain the difficulty of a chosen-text essay
- state what the CED does not require
- make a thesis answer the prompt rather than the novel

1 Worked examples

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

■ The requirement

An interpretation of a literary text requiring defense through textual evidence and a line of reasoning, explained through commentary.

■ The chosen-text difficulty

When you choose the text, you arrive knowing it well — and the risk is writing what you know about the novel instead of what the prompt asked.

■ What is not required

No list of points, elements or evidence.

■ Answering the prompt

The thesis must contain the prompt's own terms, redescribed as a claim about this text. If the thesis could stand unchanged under a different prompt, it is answering the novel and not the question.

2 Practice

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

2.2 Explain the difficulty of a chosen-text essay. [2]

2.3 The thesis must answer the prompt.

(a) State the test. [2]

(b) State what the thesis must contain. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 A thesis that could stand unchanged under a different prompt is answering [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A** the novel, not the question
B the question
C both
D neither

3.2 In a chosen-text essay the risk is writing [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A** what you know about the novel
B too little
C about the wrong book
D without evidence

- (a) State the problem. [1]
- (b) Explain the fix. [2]

Marked on the AP 6-point rubric: **Row A** — Thesis (1), **Row B** — Evidence and Commentary (4), **Row C** — Sophistication (1).

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