

AP Lit Thesis Formula (alter to fit prompts)

1. Although readers of <title> have argued that <author> often <generally accepted premise> in his/her <genre>, closer examination shows that <insightful observation about text>.
2. <Author> utilizes an abundance of <element> and <element> to convincingly persuade the reader that the <generally accepted premise> in his/her <genre> but it is worth noting that <author> offers a variant interpretation in his/her <genre>, <title>.
3. Throughout his/her <genre>, <title>, <author> exploits the reader's tendency to <insightful observation about humanity> by drawing heavily on <element>, <element>, and <element> to illustrate that <insightful observation about text>.
4. After carefully contemplating the abundance of <element>, <element>, and <element>, the reader of <author>'s <genre>, <title>, is left questioning <generally accepted premise> after recognizing the implication of <author>'s impressive work.
5. In his/her timeless <genre>, <title>, <author> unflinchingly illuminates <generally accepted premise> through his/her candid exploration of <element> and <element> in an effort to ultimately bring the reader to the realization that <insightful observation about text>.
6. <author>'s complex attitude toward <generally accepted premise> is vividly illustrated throughout <title> but the careful reader also notes the conflicted nature of <insightful observation about character> as evidenced by <author>'s specialized use of <element>, <element>, and <element>.
7. <character>'s plight in <author>'s, <title> illustrates the <human condition>, specifically the <universal need> and the desire to bring order to a disordered world.

Note: Add **vivid adjectives and startling adverbs** everywhere you can but make sure that they **ADD** to your assertion rather than distracting from it. Sophisticated language **AND** syntax are rewarded!

2014 AP Literature & Composition (College Board)**Question 1**

(Suggested time — 40 minutes. This question counts as one-third of the total essay section score.)

The following poem is by the sixteenth-century English poet George Gascoigne. Read the poem carefully. Then write an essay in which you analyze how the complex attitude of the speaker is developed through such devices as form, diction, and imagery.

For That He Looked Not upon Her

You must not wonder, though you think it strange,
To see me hold my louring head so low;
And that mine eyes take no delight to range
About the gleams which on your face do grow.
The mouse which once hath broken out of trap
Is seldom 'ticèd with the trustless bait,
But lies aloof for fear of more mishap,
And feedeth still in doubt of deep deceit.
The scorched fly which once hath 'scaped the flame
Will hardly come to play again with fire,
Whereby I learn that grievous is the game
Which follows fancy dazzled by desire:
 So that I wink or else hold down my head,
 Because your blazing eyes my bale have bred. (1573)

TEMPLATE: <author>'s complex attitude toward <generally accepted premise> is vividly illustrated throughout <title> but the careful reader also notes the conflicted nature of <insightful observation about character> as evidenced by <author>'s specialized use of <element>, <element>, and <element>.

THESIS STATEMENT: George Gascoigne's complex attitude toward his lover's fickle disposition is vividly illustrated throughout "For That He Looked Not upon Her" but the careful reader also notes the conflicted nature of love as evidenced by Gascoigne's ironic use of the sonnet format, scornful diction, and startling imagery.

2014 AP Literature & Composition (College Board)**Question 2**

(Suggested time—40 minutes. This question counts as one-third of the total essay section score.)

The following passage is from the novel *The Known World* by Edward P. Jones. Read the passage carefully. Then, in a well-organized essay, analyze how the author reveals the character of Moses. In your analysis, you may wish to consider such literary elements as point of view, selection of detail, and imagery.

TEMPLATE: Throughout his/her <genre>, <title>, <author> exploits the reader's tendency to <insightful observation about humanity> by drawing heavily on <element>, <element>, and <element> to illustrate that <insightful observation about text>.

THESIS STATEMENT: Throughout his novel, The Known World, Edward P. Jones manipulates the reader's tendency to assume that interracial victimization is less harmful than external exploitation by drawing heavily on an emotional first person narration, a graphic selection of detail, and sensational imagery to illustrate that the inequitable relationship between black owners and slaves was just as destructive as those of their white counterparts.

2014 AP Literature & Composition (College Board)**Question 3**

(Suggested time—40 minutes. This question counts as one-third of the total essay section score.)

It has often been said that what we value can be determined only by what we sacrifice. Consider how this statement applies to a character from a novel or play. Select a character that has deliberately sacrificed, surrendered, or forfeited something in a way that highlights that character's values. Then write a well-organized essay in which you analyze how the particular sacrifice illuminates the character's values and provides a deeper understanding of the meaning of the work as a whole.

You may choose a novel or play from the list below or one of comparable literary merit. Do not merely summarize the plot. <list omitted>

TEMPLATE: <character>'s plight in <author>'s, <title> illustrates the <human condition>, specifically the <universal need> and the desire to bring order to a disordered world.

THESIS STATEMENT: Sydney Carton's plight in Charles Dickens's, A Tale of Two Cities illustrates the clichéd romantic ideal, specifically the willingness to sacrifice one's own happiness for the betterment of one's love and the desire to bring order to a disordered world, a moral presented to the reader over the course of the novel.