

# **Devising an Analytical Thesis**

# The Goal of Analysis

1. To demonstrate some new understanding
2. To state this new understanding in the form of a thesis or claim
3. To support your analysis with evidence

# What does an analytical thesis look like?

An analytical thesis states

- ★ a **claim** or **opinion**

- ★ about a **general subject** (like gender, society, human nature, or worldview)

- ★ that you think **the author conveys**

- ★ **through some element** (character, conflict, symbol) in the novel

# A thesis states...

Your opinion...	Avoid phrases like “I think” and “I believe” when writing formal essays; state the idea plainly
About a general subject...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• life</li><li>• relationships</li><li>• gender</li><li>• class</li><li>• society</li><li>• worldview</li></ul>
That the author makes...	Use phrases like “Miller suggests,” “Miller criticizes,” or “Miller illustrates”
Through some element...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• character</li><li>• conflict</li><li>• symbolism</li><li>• irony</li><li>• structure</li><li>• figurative language</li></ul>

# Sample thesis statements...

Example 1

In *Brave New World* Aldous Huxley satirizes modern society, suggesting that materialism and promiscuity will bring about humankind's demise.

Example 2

In *Macbeth* Shakespeare reveals his misogynistic views as he suggests that Lady Macbeth and the wyrd sisters ultimately cause the hero's downfall.

Example 3

In *The Canterbury Tales* Geoffrey Chaucer criticizes the medieval class structure, suggesting that social status is a poor indicator of an individual's moral integrity.

# Patterns for a thesis...

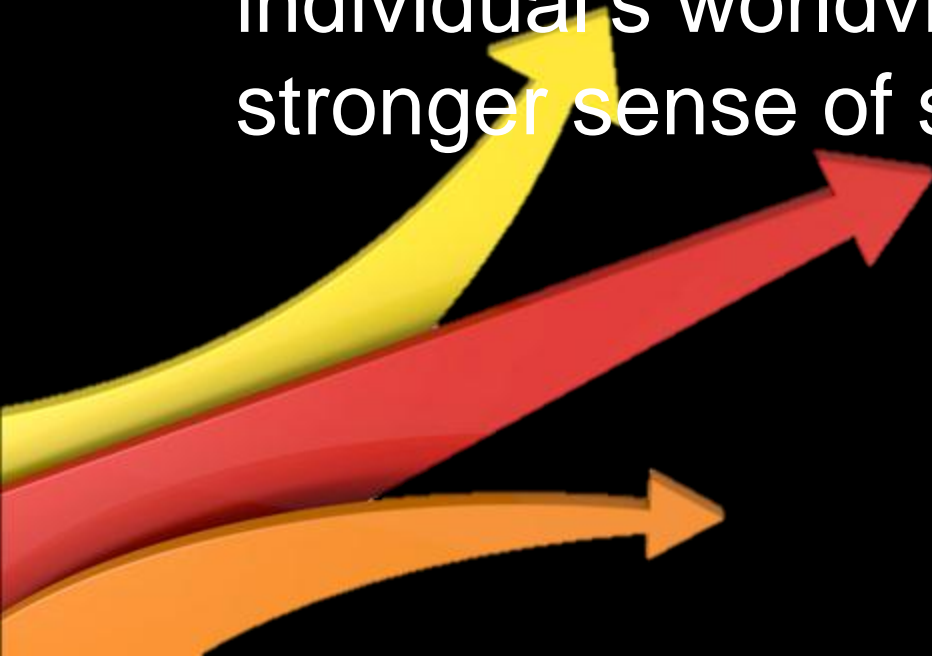
- In (title) (author) suggests (your claim).
- (Author's) (title) reveals (your claim) through (literary device).
- (Literary device) in (title) emphasizes (your point).

# What's wrong with this thesis?

- In Keeping Corner by Kashmira Sheth, Leela's worldview changes when her husband dies and she is forced to spend an entire year "keeping corner."

# Tripod / Roadmap Thesis...

- Kashmira Sheth's Keeping Corner demonstrates how family, relationships, and society can transform an individual's worldview, resulting in a stronger sense of social responsibility.







# Umbrella Thesis...

- Kashmira Sheth's Keeping Corner demonstrates how traumatic experiences can transform an individual's worldview, resulting in a stronger sense of social responsibility.