Thesis Statements

**It must:**

* State your argument and be written argumentatively
* Be something that can be argued against
* Be specific to the novel and be somewhat complex

**2 parts**

* Argument – what you’re trying to prove
* Direction – how you’re going to prove it – list your 3 points
* This can be done in 1 sentence, or 2, depending on how complex and wordy it becomes

**Test:**

* Argumentative?
* Can it be argued against?
* Is it specific to the novel?
* Is it somewhat complex, or obvious and simple

**Evaluate each thesis statement:**

The concept of manliness in *Macbeth* changes throughout the play. This is seen through Macbeth’s valiant behaviour at the beginning of the play, other characters’ reactions to Macbeth’s horrific deeds, and Macbeth’s lack of emotion at the end of the play.

The concept of manliness in *Macbeth* begins as a reflection of honour, but ends as a reflection of what it means to be human. This is proven through Duncan’s praise of Macbeth at the beginning of the play, other characters’ reactions to Macbeth’s horrific deeds, and Macbeth’s lack of emotion at the end of the play.

Although the concept of manliness changes throughout the play, the most important aspect of manliness is being valiant and honourable. Duncan’s praise of Macbeth, Macbeth’s willingness to act to defend his manhood, and his decision to leave this world fighting all prove how honour in battle defines manliness.

Although honour and valour are important aspects of manliness in *Macbeth*, Macbeth’s reaction to the thought of killing Duncan, other characters’ reactions to Macbeth’s horrific deeds, and Macbeth’s lack of emotion at the end of the play prove that manliness in this play is more about being human than being valiant in battle.