

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Your **Thesis** Statement

A thesis statement:

- 1) Is a **claim** or **argument** (it is your opinion)
- 2) Tells you reader **what** you will talk about
- 3) Explains **how** the author shows the **theme** of the novel

A thesis statement:

- 1) Is NOT a statement of fact (S.E. Hinton uses many characters...)
- 2) Is NOT a plot summary (In *The Outsiders*, Johnny kills Bob...)

You will begin your thinking by deciding which **theme** from the novel you want to talk about. (Remember: a theme is an observation or statement about life, NOT advice.) Write your theme sentence below:

Collect **six** quotations (two per paragraph) from either your peers' work on the wall or from the novel that show your theme in the novel (death, loss, friendship, violence, gangs, regret, childhood...). If your theme has to do with change, you will probably need quotations from the beginning, middle, and end of the novel. List your quotations here, **in MLA format** ["Quotation" (81).]:

Now, examine your quotations. The first part of your thesis statement needs to explain **how** S.E. Hinton shows the theme in the novel. Do your quotations deal with *character personalities or relationships? How a character changes? How characters react to death/loss? The rival gangs in the novel? The setting of the novel? The fighting scenes?*