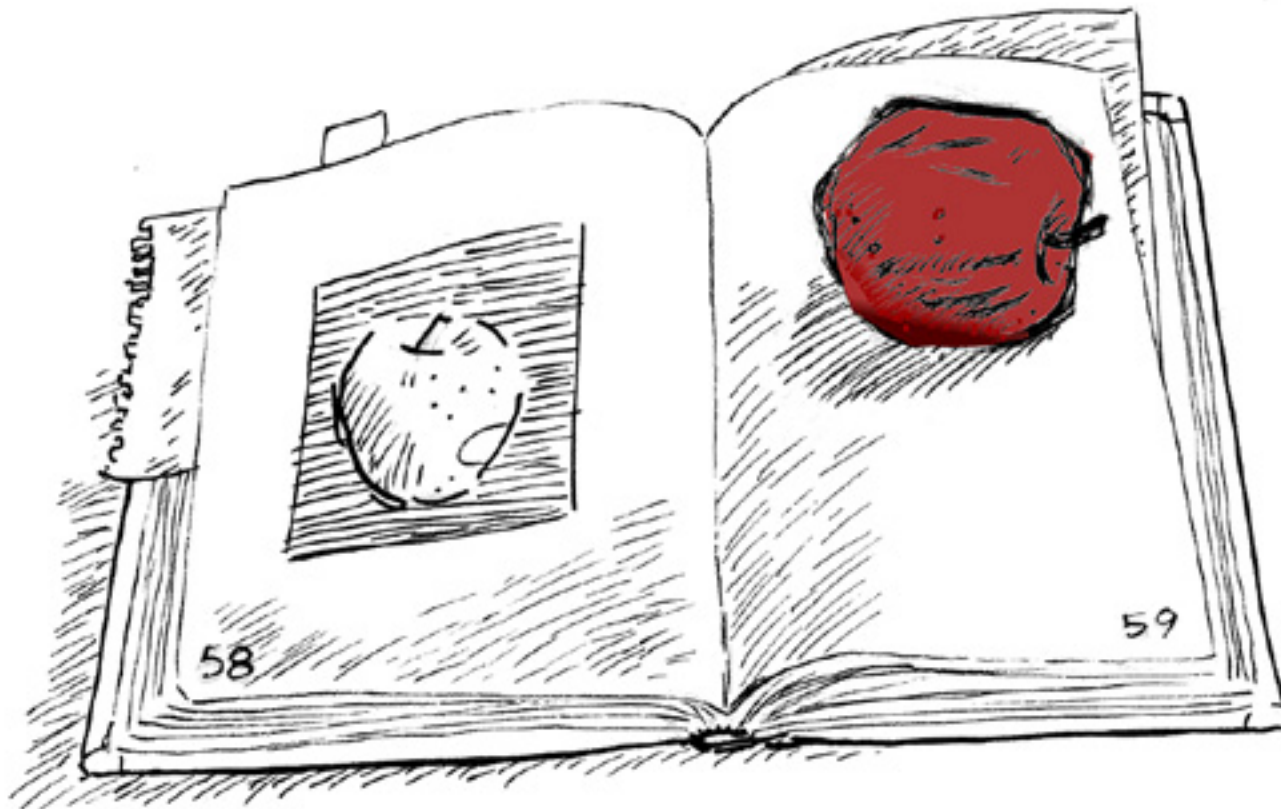


# What is a Thesis?

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# What is a Thesis?

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## The English 1301 basic thesis statement is:

- is the unifying force in the paper
- it is the point you are arguing; the thesis defines your position on a subject;  
your paper will provide convincing evidence to support the thesis
- a declarative statement, composed of one to two sentences

The thesis states a fact about your topic and your point of view on the topic:

topic + opinion + fact = thesis

The Texas policy of capital punishment is a working example  
of a system of state-controlled policies which acts as a deterrent to crime.

**However... >**

# Literary Critical Analysis Thesis

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**Expectations for English 1302 papers require a higher level of thesis statements.**

Different requirements are needed to fulfill the notion of an opening declaration in literary analysis.

- Looking at the formula provided earlier: **topic** + **opinion** + **fact**= thesis
- the term “topic” needs to include the following:
  - > full name author(s)–**and**–
  - > full title of work –**and when relevant**–
  - > full name of character(s) who will be analyzed –**plus**–
  - > full details explored/examined in the paper

*What results is a heightened declaration of your analytical intentions.*

# *Literary Critical Analysis Thesis*

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*A working example:*

Both Edgar Allan Poe, in his story “The Cask of Amontillado,” and as well Charlotte Perkins Gilman, in “The Yellow Wallpaper,” utilize common Gothic elements within their stories, such as scenes of dilapidation and developing maniac characters, in order to successfully establish the failures of the Nineteenth Century American class system for the average citizen.

- In this fashion the instructor/audience sees:
  - > the subject includes two authors and two named stories
  - > the topic addresses the American class system of the 1800s
  - > a comparison/contrast formula will be utilized
- The paper will only use defense examining these issues.