Florence Kelly- Thesis Statement Formula for AP English Rhetorical Analysis Essays

A good thesis statement presents your topic to the reader and indicates how you will interpret the significance of the subject matter discussed in your essay. Think of it as a kind of road map, designed to help the reader know what to expect in the essay.

But an AP rhetorical analysis thesis statement is like nothing you’ve ever had to write in school before. Unlike other kinds of thesis statements, a rhetorical analysis thesis statement demands that you do three things:

1. Identify the rhetorical devices you will analyze in your essay

2. Identify the impact of those devices of the effectiveness of the text

3. Identify the author, genre, and name of the text

The below, fill-in-the-blank thesis statement formula, designed for use when writing rhetorical analysis essays, will make your life simpler, easier, and more successful!

**Formula**
Let’s look at an example of an excellent AP rhetorical analysis thesis statement:

In her indignantly critical and cleverly crafted speech given to the National Association for Women’s Suffrage, Florence Kelley clearly articulates and emotionally persuades her audience through the use of parallelism and inclusive language to advocate for changes to child labor laws.

If we look closely at this thesis statement and color code its component pieces, we see that it is designed this way:

In her adverb/adjective, adverb/adjective name of genre and other identifying information such as the date the document was written, writer’s name adverb active verb and adverb active verb name of reader or intended audience through the use of describe or name rhetorical techniques you will focus on to describe to the writer’s purpose.

(In her indignantly critical and cleverly crafted speech given to the National Association for Women’s Suffrage, Florence Kelley clearly articulates and emotionally persuades her audience through the use of parallelism and inclusive language to advocate for changes to child labor laws.)

Adjective- a word or phrase naming an attribute, added to or grammatically related to a noun to modify or describe it.

Genre- a category of artistic composition, as in music or literature, characterized by similarities in form, style, or subject matter.

Active verb- Active verbs, also called "action or dynamic verbs," are words that you would use to describe an action that a **subject** is performing. They differ from passive verbs in that they put a focus on the sentence **subject**, while passive verbs highlight an object that receives the action in the sentence.

Writers purpose- his reason for or intent in **writing**. An **author's purpose** may be to amuse the reader, to persuade the reader, to inform the reader, or to satirize a condition.

Voila! Done!