Thesis Statement Template

Template ONE:
The general argument made by author ______________________ in his/her work _________________________________________ is that ________________________________________.
More specifically, _________________ argues that _________________________________________________________________.

Template TWO:
________________ is wrong/right because _________________________________________________________________.
More specifically, _________________________________ believes/demonstrates, argues, that _________________________________________________________________.

Template THREE:
Although _________________________________ (believes, demonstrates, argues) that ______ ________________________________________________, I suggest that _________________________________________________________________.

Or, simply
In ________________________________ (title), ________________________________ (author) uses ____________________________, ____________________________, and ____________________________
In order to convey _________________________________________________________________.

And, more sophisticated,

By looking at ________________________________ by ________________________________ one can see ________________________________________________________________ which is important because _________________________________________________________________.

(something not obvious and others may not see—the opinion part.)

Template FOUR:

Comparison/ Contrast

The differences [similarities] between _______ and _______ are (striking, pronounced) and they deserve_____________________. (thorough investigation, rigorous scrutiny, examination)

Or
Although they bear some similarities, __________________________ and __________________________ have many differences including __________________________, __________________________, __________________________.
Two Sided Issues

The debate over _________ is very complicated, and it can best be explained by considering the lines of argument that people follow—the reasons that they offer in support of their claims, and the evidence that they present in support of their reasons. Some contend that ___________, offering the following reasons and evidence to convince their audiences..... Some, however, believe that ___________, and they offer (different/similar/the same) reasons and evidence in support of their claims, such as _______________.

Some, for example, contend __________ while others maintain that __________. There is also substantial disagreement about how to define certain terms. Some define __________ as __________, while others insist that __________ is best defined as __________. People disagree about how to evaluate the situation, with some people saying __________ and others insisting _______________. Finally, there is disagreement about what to do. Some want us to __________ while others would have us ___________.