

Ms. Conn

E8H

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Free Response Study Guide

- Why should I take the AP Exam??

First of all, taking an AP exam is NOT mandatory. Think about your future in college. Taking a simple 3-hour test will save you a high amount of money that you would have to pay for a course or credit. It will also save time for taking other important courses you might need for graduating college on time.

- So what now??

Now we prepare for the Free Response Essay part!!!!

WAIT.....

- What is a Free Response Essay??

A Free Response Essay is an essay that allows you to write freely based upon the specific topic the test makers want you to cover within the essay. The Free Response Essay will ask a general question which you will have to answer by having support from a work of literature (a book or novel) that you have already read.

1. Free Response Essay fun facts

- The free response essay is the one that will require you to be able to use knowledge from any poem that you already read and understood.
- This essay can also make you write a free response on a novel that you have already read. This makes it very important to be well versed in many different works of literature. It never hurts to read!!!!

2. Tips for writing the Free Response Essay

- When reading the question or prompt highlight/underline anything on the question that you must focus on.
- You choose what to write in your essay so if anything seems complex don't stress yourself about it; just remember to answer the "WHAT" and the "HOW" in your essay.
- **DO NOT SUMMARIZE THE PLOT!** The graders don't want a summary of what you've read; they most likely know it already.
- Always refer back to the prompt in your essay; the graders want to see that you understand the task given.

- **So What? Is what I'm writing important? Why will the graders deem what I write relevant to what they are asking?**
- Give your writing a purpose. Do NOT just write to take up space. Quality, not quantity.
- When picking a work of literature, make sure you fully understand it so that you can make stronger references to your prompt.
- Begin the essay with a good attention grabber introduction that addresses the question. Also use the introduction to introduce your work of literature and start telling the reader about the subject that pertains to the question. Make sure you set up the reader for your coming body paragraphs.
- The body paragraphs should develop the aspects on how the work of literature answers the question.
- **REMEMBER TO USE LITERARY ELEMENTS!!**
- If it is hard for you to use literary devices or just can't remember because you're nervous use basic ones such as characterization, setting, themes, and symbols.

*** TP-CASTT (Title, Paraphrase, Connotation, Attitude, Shift, Title, Theme)**

Title – Consider the title before you start with your essay. If the test makers put it there is for a reason so don't ignore titles.

Paraphrase – Create a mini outline which will help you with your essay. Do NOT exceed 5-7 minutes doing so and do NOT make your outline too long.

Connotation – Contemplate your work of literature for meaning beyond the literal.

Attitude – Recognize both the narrator and the author's attitude or tone.

Shifts – Note shifts in narrator and in attitudes (This will help make your point through).

Title – Examine the title one more time, this time on an interpretive level.

Theme – Determine what the author is saying.

- Vary sentence structure and use direct quotes from the passage or works of literature. Remember that the test is timed so make concise arguments.
- On the open ended literature questions, do not forget that you are not limited to the suggestions the test makers have made for you, you may use other literary elements and works of literature that you know and feel more comfortable with.
- Your conclusion should summarize the point of your essay. If you can't think on anything to write, wrap it up with a sentence or two.
- End off by giving the reader knowledge as to what your argument was.

- Now you are ready to ace The Free Response Essay!!

*****Note: If after reading this you still don't know what to do then buddy you are in trouble.**