

OAKBROOK SUMMER READING 2017
Rising Freshmen (9th) in English I CP or Honors

Read the unabridged version of the assigned text and respond to the prompt in a well-written essay in MLA format, due on the first day of class. Do not consult secondary (outside) sources. See the attached guidelines.

***The Pearl* by John Steinbeck**

For it is said that humans are never satisfied, that you give them one thing and they want something more. And this is said in disparagement, whereas it is one of the greatest talents the species has and one that has made it superior to animals that are satisfied with what they have.

- From *The Pearl*, Chapter 3

In the passage above, the narrator of *The Pearl* suggests that the desire for more defines humanity and makes us different from animals. However, many people see the theme of *The Pearl* as one concerning the *dehumanizing* nature of greed.

In a well-developed essay, examine the depiction of greed in Steinbeck's novella. Tell specifically how greed has dehumanized certain characters. Are there any major characters who are not tainted at one time or another by greed? Is there a force in the story that finally triumphs over greed? Use specific examples and direct quotations from the text to support your ideas. (And yes, you may need to look up the definition of *dehumanize*.)

MS. AUTENZIO'S 10 GUIDELINES FOR WRITING YOUR ESSAY

- 1. Have a thesis sentence that clearly states the idea/theme(s) discussed in your paper.**
Remember, your thesis must be **specific!** Do not simply restate the topic.

Sample topic: How does the Beast change in *Beauty and the Beast*?

AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT NOT TO DO:

In *Beauty and the Beast*, the Beast changes a great deal.
(Change is assumed in the topic—be specific!)

AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT YOU SHOULD DO:

In *Beauty and the Beast*, Beauty's love redeems the Beast, changing him into a handsome prince; more importantly, the power of the Beast's love for Beauty transforms him into a kind and unselfish person who is worthy of Beauty.

UNDERLINE YOUR THESIS SENTENCE.

- 2. Begin paragraphs with specific topic sentences that refer back to ideas in your thesis.**

Topic sentences should not include examples or quotations.

AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT NOT TO DO:

In *Beauty and the Beast*, the Beast releases Beauty so she can help her father, even though it means he will remain a lonely beast.
(This is an example, not a main idea.)

AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT YOU SHOULD DO:

In *Beauty and the Beast*, the Beast reveals how much he has changed when he makes unselfish choices out of love for Beauty.
(This is the main idea of your paragraph. Now use examples such as the one above to support it.)

UNDERLINE TOPIC SENTENCES.

- 3. Remember, incorporate direct quotations within your sentences. Do not let them "float" in your essay.**

AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT NOT TO DO:

William Cullen Bryant explores death in his poem "Thanatopsis." "The last bitter hour."
This quotation refers to the death we must all face.

AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT YOU SHOULD DO:

In the poem "Thanatopsis," William Cullen Bryant explores the "last bitter hour" (9) of death which comes to all people.

- 4. When using direct quotations, cite the author and page number in parentheses after the quotation.**

EXAMPLE: Because Jody does not understand Janie, Janie's life with him becomes monotonous and unfulfilling. She begins to feel like "a rut in the road" (Hurston 72); Janie has no hope for the future.

- 5. Remember to italicize long works of literature, such as novels, dramas, and epic poems. Short stories and poems are placed within quotation marks.**
- 6. Your essay must have an introduction, at least three body paragraphs, and a conclusion.**
- 7. Do not use contractions.**
- 8. Do not use first or second person (I, we, you, us etc.).**
- 9. Use the MLA (Modern Language Association) format that you learned in middle school. Consult the 8th edition of the MLA handbook or this helpful link to information on MLA formatting and style:
<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/24/>**
- 10. Include an MLA Works Cited page.**