Summer Assignment- 9th Grade

Choose ONE assignment to complete (either expository OR response to literature).

Expository Option- Problem Solution Essay

Task:
Many of the problems we face in America seem simple, but further exploration shows that they can be complicated, if not overwhelming. Often, both the problems and solutions can be blamed or credited, not only on individual's behaviors, but on society as a whole.

In a clearly written and well-researched essay, explore a major problem we face today. Choose **one** from the following:

- climate change (the kind caused by human activity)
- obesity
- bullying

For your research, you must use at least three sources, each of a different medium (for example, articles, videos, books, podcasts, essays…). Sources must be cited in the text, as well as in a "Works Cited" page (or "Bibliography").

Outline:
Paragraph I – Introduction

- Attention Grabber (question, or quote from a famous person)
- Define the problem in simple terms (climate change, obesity, or bullying)
- Explain why it has become or will become such a major problem (briefly)
- Thesis- list the three most potentially effective solutions to the problem (according to your research)

Paragraph II- Body paragraph – The problem

- What is the definition of the problem according to your research?
- If there are different types, explain them
- When did the problem start to become urgent?
- Provide any statistics about the problem- percentages, degrees, projections, etc.

Paragraph III- Body paragraph – The causes of the problem

Paragraph IV- Body Paragraph – The effects of the problem on individuals and/or society

Paragraph V- Body Paragraph- The solutions-

- What can individuals to do to help end or reduce the problem?
- What can governments and/or communities do to help end or reduce the problem?
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Paragraph VI- Conclusion

- Explain why this problem is so urgent
- Explain what will happen if the problem is not addressed
- Summarize the three most effective solutions

Response to Literature Option

Task:
Classic stories stay with us because they tell about human experiences that seem relevant and true and to life, regardless of the place and time the characters lived in. However, we cannot ignore the importance of setting. An author's choice of where and when a story takes place greatly influences the conflicts and even the themes of a story.

In a focused and well-researched essay, explore TWO important themes developed in a novel you have read recently. The novel you choose to respond to must be at least one hundred pages long with few to no pictures. In addition, your essay must connect the themes to the time period in which the novel takes place. Find one article and one other type of medium (a video or documentary is suggested) about the novel's historical setting to help you do this. Sources must be cited in the text, as well as in a "Works Cited" page (or "Bibliography").

Outline:
Paragraph I – Introduction

- Attention Grabber (question, or quote from a famous person)
- Introduce the novel and provide a (very) brief summary
- Explain the setting and any basic historical information about that time period
- Thesis- state the two themes the novel addresses (in other words, what messages is the author expressing throughout the novel?).

Paragraph II- Body paragraph – The setting (time period)

- Explain what was going on historically during the time of the novel's setting
- Include any famous historical events or figures (persons) to give your reader context
- include any important changes in the culture of the time (changes in attitudes, practices, values)

Paragraph III- Body paragraph – The first theme

- Use evidence from the novel to demonstrate how the author develops the theme throughout the story.

Paragraph IV- Body Paragraph – The second theme

- Use evidence from the novel to demonstrate how the author develops the theme throughout the story.

Paragraph V- Body Paragraph- Tying theme to setting

- Explain how the first theme was influenced by the setting
- Explain how the second theme was influenced by the setting

Paragraph VI- Conclusion

- Restate the thesis, but use different words
- Explain briefly why the time period/historical setting of the novel was such an important time for both the novel, and the country
- Universal theme- explain how the themes of the novel and the problems the characters face are still relevant today

Some notes and advice on conducting research:
Note: if you are choosing the Response to Literature option, the novel counts as a source

- Be cautious about which sources you use. The best websites, articles, and videos are ones that:
  - ✓ are sponsored by a university or an organization
  - ✓ present more facts than opinions
  - ✓ provide an author, editor, or director's full name
  - ✓ give credit to their sources (according to…)
  - ✓ were published recently

- The last page of your essay or article will be a list of the sources you used (called a "Works Cited" page or "Bibliography"). You must include specific information about the source. Go to www.citationmachine.net for information and assistance. Also, see the sample below.

Works Cited Page

How to create a works cited entry for…

A book:

Lastname, Firstname. *Title of Book*. City of Publication: Publisher, Year of Publication. Medium of Publication.

A work in an anthology (collection of many works by many authors):

Lastname, First name. "Title of Essay." *Title of Collection*. Ed. Editor's Name(s). City of Publication: Publisher, Year. Page range of entry. Medium of Publication.

An article in a magazine or newspaper:

Author(s). "Title of Article." *Title of Periodical* Day Month Year: pages. Medium of publication.

An entire website:

Editor, author, or compiler name (if available). *Name of Site*. Version number. Name of institution/organization affiliated with the site (sponsor or publisher), date of resource creation (if available). Medium of publication. Date of access.

A page on a website:

Author. "Title of Page." Website Name. Name of Company or institution, Date Published, Medium of Publication. Date accessed.

A movie or video:

Title. Director. Production company, year. Medium of publication.

- Medium of publication – Examples: print, web, or film.
- Date accessed = the date you actually went to the cite and got the information
- Quotations- use quotes on titles of articles, web pages, poems, short stories
- Underline- websites, book titles, movie titles, magazine or newspaper names.

Sample Works Cited Page:

Works Cited

Gleick, James. *Chaos: Making a New Science*. New York: Penguin, 1987. Print.

Harris, Muriel. "Talk to Me: Engaging Reluctant Writers." *A Tutor's Guide: Helping Writers One to One*. Ed. Ben Rafoth. Portsmouth: Heinemann, 2000. 24-34. Print.

"How to Make Vegetarian Chili." *eHow*. Demand Media, n.d. Web. 24 Feb. 2009.

The Purdue OWL Family of Sites. The Writing Lab and OWL at Purdue and Purdue U, 2008. Web. 23 Apr. 2008.

Poniewozik, James. "TV Makes a Too-Close Call." *Time* 20 Nov. 2000: 70-71. Print.

The Usual Suspects. Dir. Bryan Singer. Polygram, 1995. Film.

- n.d. = no date
- Dir. – For movies, write Dir. before the director's name. Example- Dir. Steven Spielberg

More guidelines from the MLA:

- Begin your Works Cited page on a separate page at the end of your research paper. It should have the same one-inch margins and last name, page number header as the rest of your paper.
- Label the page Works Cited (do not italicize the words Works Cited or put them in quotation marks) and center the words Works Cited at the top of the page.
- Double space all citations, but do not skip spaces between entries.
- Indent the second and subsequent lines of citations by 0.5 inches to create a hanging indent.

Adapted from the Purdue OWL website: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/05/

Expository (problem/solution) Rubric

Category	1	2	3	4	Score
Introduction	- Uninteresting opening - Too brief or underdeveloped	- Unoriginal opening line does not capture reader's interest - Introduces the topic, but needs more information	- attention grabber is present - Introduces the topic somewhat effectively, but is missing either the thesis, details about the problem	- Opening line grabs the reader's attention - Introduces the problem effectively; states thesis clearly (including solutions).	
Body Paragraphs	-Paragraphs are ordered illogically - No actual topic sentences - few/ no use of transitions	- Paragraphs are not ordered as indicated in the outline -Topic sentences are not relevant to (some) paragraphs - Lack of transitions makes essay seem awkward	- Topic sentences are appropriate -Paragraphs are ordered logically - At times, transitions are awkward/ missing	- Topic sentences are clear and to the point - Paragraphs are ordered logically - Smooth transitions between examples.	
Use of Evidence	Lack of evidence weakens the argument of the essay. -No in-text citations	-Some evidence is used, but each paragraph needs at least one more example or quote to satisfy the requirement as well as more commentary - two or more passages seem copied	-Although evidence is supplied, at least one paragraph needs (an) additional example(s)/quote or more commentary after each example - one or two passages need to be paraphrased better - one or two citations appear to be missing	-Body paragraphs contain effective and appropriate amount of examples and/or quotes - Examples are supported by research - The relevance of each example is discussed. - sources are cited in the text - information is paraphrased NOT plagiarized	
Grammar/ spelling	Most sentences contain at least one grammar or spelling error	Frequent grammar / spelling errors interrupt the flow of the ideas	7 or fewer minor grammar or spelling errors are present in the entire narrative	Less than 3 minor spelling or grammar errors are present in the entire narrative	
Conclusion	No conclusion is supplied, or conclusion consists of one or two sentences that do not bring closure to the essay	- Conclusion does not restate the thesis - Conclusion does not elaborate enough on the solutions or urgency of the problem	- Conclusion restates thesis - A sense of closure is present, but a final sentence could be added to make it complete	- Conclusion restates the thesis of the essay - There is a sense of closure to the themes and power of the poem is discussed in the conclusion	
Works Cited Page (Biblio-graphy)	No Works Cited page supplied	An attempt at documenting sources was made, but the format is incorrect and information is missing on all sources	A Works Cited page is provided, but there are some errors in formatting, punctuation, etc.	A Works Cited page containing at least three sources is provided. Entries are in the correct format, the appropriate information is provided (some "first	

				draft" errors may be present)	

Response to Literature (novel) Rubric

Length requirement met? Yes _____ No _____

Category	1	2	3	4	Score
Introduction	- Uninteresting opening - Too brief or underdeveloped	- Unoriginal opening line does not capture reader's interest - Introduces the topic, but either needs more information, or has no thesis.	- Opening line lacks originality - Introduces the topic somewhat effectively, but is missing either the thesis, author/title, or theme.	- Opening line grabs the reader's attention - Introduces the novel effectively; mentions theme, author, title, and states thesis.	
Body Paragraphs	-Paragraphs are ordered illogically - No actual topic sentences - few/ no use of transitions	- Paragraphs are not ordered as indicated in the outline -Topic sentences are not relevant to (some) paragraphs - Lack of transitions makes essay seem awkward	- Topic sentences are appropriate -Paragraphs are ordered logically - At times, transitions are awkward/ missing	- Topic sentences are clear and to the point - Paragraphs are ordered logically - Smooth transitions between examples.	
Use of Evidence	Lack of evidence weakens the argument of the essay. -No in-text citations	-Some evidence is used, but each paragraph needs at least one more example or quote to satisfy the requirement as well as more commentary - two or more passages seem copied	-Although evidence is supplied, at least one paragraph needs (an) additional example(s)/quote or more commentary after each example - one or two passages need to be paraphrased better - one or two citations appear to be missing	-Body paragraphs contain effective and appropriate amount of examples and/or quotes - Examples are supported by research - The relevance of each example is discussed. - sources are cited in the text - information is paraphrased NOT plagiarized	
Grammar/ spelling	Most sentences contain at least one grammar or spelling error	Frequent grammar/spelling errors interrupt the flow of the ideas	7 or fewer minor grammar or spelling errors are present in the entire narrative	Less than 3 minor spelling or grammar errors are present in the entire narrative	
Conclusion	No conclusion is supplied, or conclusion consists of one or two sentences that do not bring closure to the essay	- Conclusion does not restate the thesis - Conclusion does not elaborate enough on the themes or power of the novel	- Conclusion restates thesis - A sense of closure is present, but a final sentence could be added to make it complete	- Conclusion restates the thesis of the essay - There is a sense of closure to the themes and power of the novel is/are discussed	
Works Cited Page (Biblio-graphy)	No Works Cited page supplied	An attempt at documenting sources was made, but the format is incorrect and information is missing on all	A Works Cited page is provided, but there are some errors in formatting, punctuation, etc.	A Works Cited page containing at least three sources is provided. Entries are in the correct format, the appropriate information is	

		sources		provided (some “first draft” errors present)	