

Essay - “Self-Reliance” in Popular Culture

How to write good essays

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of purple, ranging from light lavender to deep, dark purple. These shapes are primarily located on the right side and bottom of the frame, creating a modern, layered effect. The central area is a clean white space where the text is placed.

Brainstorming Main Ideas

Warm-Up

10/4/19

- ▶ What does being “self-reliant” mean to you?
 - ▶ What does it look like?
 - ▶ If you were 100% self-reliant, what would you do?

Agenda for the Day

- ▶ Introduce Essay
- ▶ Brainstorm Main Ideas
- ▶ Start pulling quotes
- ▶ Make sure:
 - ▶ Paragraph explanations are turned in

Essays!

- ▶ Purpose:
 - ▶ How can the values of “Self-Reliance” be understood and acted on by an individual facing pressure from their society?
 - ▶ How can the characters/events from the Summer Reading book serve as examples of self-reliant ideas?
- ▶ Timeline:
 - ▶ 4 days to work in class next week
 - ▶ Version 1 due Tues 10/15

Brainstorm 3-5 main ideas from “Self-Reliance”

- ▶ Pick 3 different paragraphs OR combine multiple similar paragraphs
- ▶ Support main ideas with 1-2 Emerson quotes EACH
 - ▶ Focus on quotes that *make sense to you*
 - ▶ Main idea is what the quote is about. Quote is evidence that Emerson is discussing this idea.
- ▶ Think of examples from Summer Reading
 - ▶ How do character(s) or society fit with Emerson’s ideas?

The background features abstract, overlapping purple geometric shapes, primarily triangles and polygons, in various shades of purple, creating a modern and dynamic aesthetic.

Brainstorming Ideas & Developing a Thesis

Warm-Up: 10/7/19

- ▶ Me Monday! Letter “E”
 - ▶ Come up with a topic related to you/your life that starts with the letter “E”
 - ▶ Write a short entry about that topic

Agenda for the Day

- ▶ Work time for essays (use this wisely!)
 - ▶ Develop a Thesis
 - ▶ Clarify main ideas
 - ▶ Find supporting quotes

Find examples from your SR book

- ▶ Build off your brainstorming to think of specific connections
 - ▶ Actions that show their traits
 - ▶ Words that show their mindset
- ▶ How do they put into practice Emerson's ideas?
 - ▶ Use the main ideas you've pulled from Emerson
- ▶ Note page number (or paragraph for Emerson)

What does a thesis need to be complete?

- ▶ In *The Crucible*, there are lots of examples of Puritans hurting each other.
- ▶ In *The Crucible*, I think people are mean to each other because their religion makes them snotty.
- ▶ In *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller, the cause of the Puritans treating their neighbors unjustly and inhumanely was their belief that they personally held the authority of God.

Why does it matter?

- ▶ The purpose of a thesis is to make a claim that you will then argue and explain through the essay
- ▶ Everything you say through the rest of your essay should be related to the thesis

Narrow Main Ideas

- ▶ What big picture statement do you want to make about connections between “Self-Reliance” and the SR book?
 - ▶ The thesis is your starting point, the overall perspective you want to argue throughout the essay
 - ▶ The main ideas & quotes are how you prove your argument
- ▶ Build off the main ideas you’ve already brainstormed
 - ▶ The main ideas tell you what you want to talk about
 - ▶ The thesis narrows those into an overall statement

Deciding on a Thesis

- ▶ Start by asking a question you want to answer
 - ▶ How can being self-reliant make someone a successful hero?
 - ▶ How can self-reliance guide a journey of self-development?
 - ▶ How can someone become a “great man”?
- ▶ Or think about your main ideas are related
 - ▶ Does one cause the next? Is it a process?
 - ▶ Are they a how-to guide for becoming a “great man”?
 - ▶ Are they an argument for why we should try to be self-reliant?

Developing a Thesis

- ▶ Thesis should include:
 - ▶ The title and author of the text(s) you're talking about (if not otherwise stated in the introduction)
 - ▶ A statement that is arguable
 - ▶ What you're going to prove through the essay
 - ▶ A hint toward your main ideas
- ▶ Ex: In *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller, the cause of the Puritans treating their neighbors unjustly and inhumanely was their belief that they personally held the authority of God.

Goals for Today:

1. Write a draft of your thesis
 - ▶ Show me before you move on
2. Confirm that the main ideas you've chosen make sense under the big picture of your thesis
 - ▶ If they don't, adjust them. Choose different ones or shift the focus of how you talk about them.
3. If satisfied with both, find quotes from “Self-Reliance” and the SR book to support your ideas

Reminders

- ▶ Check out a Summer Reading book, if you need to take one home
- ▶ Wednesday & Thursday - In classroom with computers
 - ▶ Only days to type up your essay, due Tuesday 10/15 (2 printed copies)



Formulating Body Paragraphs

Warm-Up

10/8/19

- ▶ Grade reports (on the ½ sheet, NOT your warm-up)
 1. Write on the report (front or back):
 - ▶ Why is this your current grade?
 - ▶ What are you going to change or maintain going forward?
 2. Turn in to basket
 - ▶ (Yes, I'm showing your family at conferences)

Rules for Crucible Test corrections

- ▶ Due Tues Oct 15
- ▶ Only if you have lower than an A
- ▶ Up to $\frac{1}{2}$ points back where lost, if you improve the answer
- ▶ Star, write in a different color, or something so I know where changes were made

Utilizing Quotes

- ▶ The purpose for quotes in essays is they provide evidence
- ▶ But, your job is to EXPLAIN the evidence
 - ▶ How it proves your thesis
 - ▶ How it connects to your main ideas
 - ▶ Why it's important

Selecting Quotes

- ▶ Choose a quote that can:
 - ▶ Illustrate an idea you want to talk about
 - ▶ SHOW a character acting a certain way, so you don't have to do as much telling
- ▶ Consider length:
 - ▶ Aim for 1 to 3 lines. Doesn't have to be a full sentence.
 - ▶ This is your evidence, then you have to explain it.
- ▶ Note the page number! (paragraph for Emerson)

Quote Sandwiches

- ▶ **Set-up the quote**
 - ▶ Why are you using this quote? Who said it? Why did they say it?
- ▶ **Start a sentence with the speaker/author. Use a : or , “then the quote” (Author #).**
- ▶ **Follow-up by explaining the quote**
 - ▶ What is it saying? Why is it important?
 - ▶ For this essay, make clear the connection between Emerson and the SR book

Part of why the Salem Witch Trials became destructive was that people were afraid to tell the leaders to stop. For example, Danforth explained to Francis Nurse why they had to arrest people who signed a petition arguing with the court. Danforth said, “a person is either with this court or he must be counted against it, there be no road between” (Miller 94). By saying there is no option between joining in and standing against the court, Danforth is proving the power it has over everyone’s lives.

Use this time!

1. Clarify your thesis if you have not yet
2. Choose your 3-5 main ideas. For each:
 - a. Find a quote from Emerson
 - b. Find a quote from your Summer Reading book
3. Begin to write out your body paragraphs
 - a. Remember to include set up, quote with page number, and explanation

Outlining & Organizing

Warm-Up

10/9/19

- ▶ **Word:** integrate
- ▶ **Response:** What do we mean when we ask you to “integrate” a quote into your paragraph?
 - ▶ What does that need to include?
 - ▶ How do you show that in your paper?

Organizing Essays

- ▶ Think of it in terms of a series of questions, that then you answer through your essay.
 - ▶ Hook: Why should you talk about this?
 - ▶ Thesis: How does the story of Ender's Game/Divergent show the values expressed in "Self-Reliance"?
 - ▶ Body Paragraph: What values or reasons show that connection?
 - ▶ How can you tell (quotes)?
 - ▶ What does it mean (your explanation)?
 - ▶ Conclusion: What did you learn? Why does it matter?

Reminders

- ▶ **Today & Tomorrow** - Time with computers
- ▶ **Tues Oct 15 - PRINTED ESSAYS DUE**
 - ▶ Due at the start of class
 - ▶ Need to be complete, in *MLA* format
- ▶ **Next week** - Plans for revising for Version 2

Developing an Essay

Warm-Up

10/10/19

Note the 4 criteria:

- ▶ **Ideas & Analysis** - Do you have a point?
- ▶ **Development & Support** - Can you back up your point?
- ▶ **Organization** - Do you lay it out in a way that makes sense?
- ▶ **Language Use** - Can other people understand your point?

This is what the ACT Writing section measures & what you should generally include when writing essays.

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Common Issues

- ▶ MLA format & Works Cited
- ▶ Clear names & pronouns
 - ▶ When you say “he”, do you mean Emerson? Orson Scott Card? Ender?
- ▶ Quote sandwiches
 - ▶ Smooth set-up before & Explanation (in new words) after
- ▶ Transitions
 - ▶ Beginning & end sentences of paragraphs