

FIRST AP ESSAY—the OPEN-ENDED QUESTION!

Time: 40 minutes (spend about 10 out of the 40 minutes planning/thinking before you write)

Requirements:

1. Use A Tale of Two Cities only!
2. You may not use the book or any supplementary sources including friends and teachers like Mr. Holm.
3. You may word process your response. Please double-space the essay.
4. If you hand write your response, please write legibly. Do not write on the back of the page.

On the English Literature and Composition Exam, students are given an open free-response question and a list of possible works from which to choose in answering the question. For the purpose of applied practice in class, we are requiring that you use A Tale of Two Cities. On the actual AP exam, a student's choice on the open-ended question would not be restricted to a given work.

Here's the question for the great class of 2009:

In literature, some characters are clearly heroic or villainous. Other characters, however, are more ambiguous, displaying a mixture of positive and negative qualities. In a well-organized essay, consider two or three such characters in A Tale of Two Cities, explain what makes them ambiguous, and discuss how this ambiguity contributes to one or more of the novel's themes.

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