

English III First Semester Exam Writing

Think back on our discussions about American values throughout the course of the semester. What values does American society exhibit? Where did those values originate? Have those values been constant since the birth of our nation or have they changed? With answers to these questions in mind, answer the following prompt in a well-developed essay.

Prompt:

Based on the literature and discussions from the first semester, determine *at least* 3 core American values that exist/are relevant today. In a well-written response, explain why these 3 core values are the most important today by using *at least* 3 pieces of literature from the semester to explain what the values are, where they came from in our history (for example: Puritans, Transcendentalists, etc.), and what makes them important still today.

Tips for writing a successful essay:

- Begin by pre-writing; use an outline or graphic organizer to generate ideas for your body paragraphs. **You will be able to use your pre-writing notes while writing the essay.**
- Read the rubric to familiarize yourself with the grading criteria for this part of the exam.
- Create a focused opening that attracts your reader's attention and clearly states the thesis.
- Give your essay a clear organization as you write; make sure that it has a beginning, a middle, and an end. Use transitions to link your ideas as you finish with one thought and begin the next.
- Include a minimum of three quotes from our readings this semester. Two of these quotes must be from the major pieces (*The Autobiography of Frederick Douglass/Red Badge of Courage/ Huckleberry Finn* and *The Crucible*) and one from a short story or poem. More quotes are better than less. Use MLA format.
- Allow yourself enough time to check for grammar, spelling, and punctuation errors before turning in your work.