

English IV AP
The Human Question
Personal Exploration / Research Paper

Introduction

In reflecting upon the vast array of literature investigated thus far in this course, we have considered such thematic issues as coping with the loss of a loved one, choosing between personal desires and societal obligations, discovering oneself through concerted internal examination, and a myriad of other topics. Ultimately, however, there is essentially only one true question...What does it mean to be human? As the culminating challenge of your final English course in high school, you will answer this question.

The Assignment

In an overall response of 5 typed, double-spaced pages, and based on both personal and research-based evidence, answer this ultimate question...

What does it mean to be human?

The creation of your response will take you through several different “stages” of introspection and investigation upon which you will build your overall paper. Both stage and final submissions will adhere to all MLA formatting requirements, including a works cited page for all outside sources referenced within the paper.

Stage 1 – Human Definition

As Hermann Hesse wrote, “you’ll have to listen within yourself, and you’ll notice that I’m inside you.” And the answer is inside of you...you need only seek it. This research project is a process of consideration from within to without. Before seeking validation in the outside world, you must consider “what it means to be human” from your personal vantage point, removed of outside influences from literature and society. In a 1-page response, thoughtfully consider what it means to be human from your own personal perspective.

Due Date – Thursday, October 25, 2018

Stage 2 – Universal Connections

Having now established your person definition of this question, you will now explore the more universal connections your definition shares with the world around you. In a 2-page response, thoughtfully consider how your personal definition connects to the spheres of the social, political, economic, religious, and / or intellectual. Outside research from three (3) periodicals is essential to formulate this aspect of your response. In-text citations with actual quotations from the chosen works, as well as an MLA works cited page, MUST be included with this submission.

Due Date – TBD

Stage 3 – Literary Connections

Continuing to build beyond yourself and the worldly connections to your definition, you will now seek validation in your response throughout varying facets of literature. Building upon the first two stages, in a 2-page response, thoughtfully consider how your personal definition is validated in three (3) literary sources: (1) a work from this course, (2), a selection from your high school tenure, and (3) a piece beyond your studies in school. In-text citations with actual quotations from the chosen works, as well as an MLA works cited page, **MUST** be included with this submission.

Due Date – TBD

Stage 4 – Final Submission

After weighing the feedback from your instructor, revise and edit your paper into a final polished response.

Due Date – TBD

Stage 5 – Visual Representation and Final Presentation

In lieu of a final examination at the conclusion of second semester, you will transform your paper into a visual representation. Further details will be provided at the beginning of the fourth quarter.

Due Date – TBD