Literary Argument Free Response Question/Open Question

AP Essay #3

Opening Paragraph:

Grabber: A general statement about the TOPIC of the essay. Do not ask questions.

Background: Introduce the title of the wok and the author and explain in a few sentences how the book relates to the topic of the question. You can summarize a bit here. This is the ONLY place you can summarize. Remember you are giving background information/context so that your argument makes sense.

Thesis statement: This sentence must answer the question AND BE ARGUABLE. You can write an open thesis (that states what you’re going to prove without getting into claims) or a closed thesis (which states the 3 claims that you’re going to focus on in your body paragraphs).

Thematic statement: This sentence just states the specific theme that your argument relates to. Remember that “guilt” isn’t a theme…what is the work saying about guilt?

Body paragraphs (you must have 3)

Topic sentence: States your claim as it relates to your argument.

Evidence: Provides specific evidence to support all claims in a line of reasoning.

Commentary: Consistently explains how the evidence supports a line of reasoning. What does each of your examples have to do with your argument? How is it proving your argument true? Make this connection clear throughout your essay.

Sophistication: Demonstrates sophistication of thought and/or develops a complex literary argument. Decision Rules and Scoring

Closing paragraphs

Reverse of your opening paragraph.

Restate your thesis using completely different words. In other words (ha!), keep the sentiment of the thesis but not the same wording.

Your next few lines should address the question, So what? Why does this matter? You can summarize your main points, but I don’t want you to repeat them because in a five-paragraph essay we just read them so it could be repetitive which we don’t want. Try and place your argument in a broader context. How might the ideas and/or themes of your essay relate to important issues in the world today?

\*Closing paragraphs should not be 1 sentence long\*

Planning Page

What is the question?

What is your argument?

What are your claims? (See more on what claims are down below)

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Claims: Remember claims are reasons for your argument. They are mini-arguments you are proving in your bodies that all go back to the major argument of your thesis statement.

Example:

Thesis: All students, regardless of grade point average, should be allowed to take any advanced placement class they want to take.

Claims:

1- it will make them stronger students overall, (will become body #1)

2- one can’t predict a student’s success based on past performance, (will become body #2)

3- and it will look better on a high school transcript / make them more competitive for college (will become body #3)

Literary Thesis: Cruelty to female characters in *Othello* does more than demonstrate gender inequality, it also highlights the shallow values of the male perpetrators.