

Unit 3: Good and Evil in Literature
Essay: William Blake's Poetry
Due Date: Wednesday 28 January

INSTRUCTIONS: Choose one of the following for your formal essay on William Blake's poetry:

- 1) Argue that Blake's poetry shows you cannot have good without evil, and vice versa. In your paper discuss at least one set of companion poems as well as the Proverbs of Hell.
- 2) Argue that Blake's poetry exposes and criticizes social, political, and/or religious injustices of his time. In your paper discuss at least one set of companion poems as well as the Proverbs of Hell.

In your essay, you should develop a **strong, clear, and argumentative thesis statement** about your topic that will be the focus for your entire essay. In addition, you should use **specific textual evidence (quotes) as support** for your argument. You should use quotes from **both** the poems as well as scholarly secondary sources. You must use **at least three (3) scholarly secondary sources** to support your argument. Each of your paragraphs should be structured appropriately according to **T.E.A.L.: Topic sentence, Evidence, Analysis, Link sentence**. In order to satisfy the Evidence portion, you must have **at least two (2) quotes from Blake's poetry and/or your secondary sources in each of the body paragraphs**. In your conclusion, you must address the **greater significance** of your topic. In other words, what point does Blake make about good and evil and the nature of humanity?

LENGTH AND FORMAT: This assignment should be structured as a formal, argumentative essay and a **minimum of 6 pages**. It must be typed, double-spaced, and in 12-point Times New Roman font. You should also provide a **Works Cited page** that lists **all** of your sources. Your Works Cited is in addition to your seven page essay; it **does not** count as your seventh page. Your entire essay should be **in accordance with MLA standards**.

DUE DATE: At the start of class on **Wednesday January 28**. A **rough draft (four pages)** is due on **Thursday 22 January**. Your **revised draft (five pages)** is due on **Monday the 26th**. If your essay is turned in late, your grade starts at a 50. You must submit an electronic **and** a printed copy. Essays must be stapled upon submission. Don't forget to have a backup for your essay; essay deletion, computer viruses, etc., will not be acceptable excuses for late submission. You should also have your **rubric attached** to your essay when you turn it in. If you do not have your rubric, **5 points** will be deducted from the essay grade.

FROM THE STUDENT HANDBOOK:

Academic Honesty: Coursework submitted by a student must be the student's own, and original work. Students shall not cheat on any assignment by giving or receiving unauthorized assistance, or commit the act of plagiarism. Students who commit such acts are subject to receiving a **grade of zero (0)** on the assignment **as well as disciplinary action**.

Name: _____ Topic: _____

Category	Possible Points	Points Earned
MLA Formatting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 point Times New Roman font, double spaced, pages numbered, name at top of each page, long quotations indented correctly, etc. -3 for each error 	5	
Length <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 pages minimum. If it isn't 5 ½ pages I will not grade it. -2 for each ¼ missing page- formatting errors taken into account 	10	
Grammar, spelling, and punctuation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -2 for every 5 errors 	10	
Works Cited Page and sources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Centered title, hanging indention, punctuation, alphabetically listed, minimum of 6, etc. Quote and provide in-text citation for at least 6 sources -2 for each missing source -2 for each entry missing -1 for each error 	10	
Quotes and In-text citations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 quotes per body paragraph, long quotations inset, quotation marks used, page numbers included, parentheses, period properly placed, etc. - ½ per error, -1 per missing quote 	15	
Formal Essay Writing Principles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responds directly to a prompt, uses third person point of view, uses present tense, properly identified author, uses active voice, avoids repetitiveness, avoids opinionated statements, writing is clear and easy to understand, etc. - ½ to -5, depending the severity and frequency of the error 	15	
Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduces author and text, provides plot and/or historical information, thesis statement as last sentence, argumentative thesis, thesis driven argument (map), etc. - ½ to -5, depending the severity and frequency of the error 	10	
Body <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Properly structured according to T.E.A.L., clear Topic sentences, specific and strong Evidence, thorough Analysis, effective Link, etc. - ½ to -5, depending the severity and frequency of the error 	15	
Conclusion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restate thesis in a new way, summarize argument, address the greater significance of the topic, etc. - ½ to -5, depending the severity and frequency of the error 	10	
Total	100	

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