



Hampton High School—World Literature & Composition Summer Reading

You will read Ayn Rand's *Anthem*. This novel is in the science fiction genre of literature. Science fiction can present a universal truth in a creative and a compelling manner to help the reader gain further insight into a concept the author is exploring with his or her literary work. This assignment will introduce you to concepts such as the destruction of a corrupt and restrictive society and the creation of a new society that celebrates the individual.

Make sure to read the novel twice during summer vacation - once for enjoyment and again for a more critical, in-depth analysis. **Students will submit their assignment on the first day of school.** Your assignment must be printed and ready to submit whether you have English 1st or 2nd semester.

Themes in *Anthem*

1. Individualism vs collectivism
2. Selflessness
3. Egoism
4. Free will

Questions to Consider while reading *Anthem*

1. Why did Ayn Rand name her main characters Prometheus” and “Gaea”?
2. What nations do you think are most like the society in ANTHEM? Which are least like it?
3. What is collectivism?
4. Is being selfish wrong? How do the characters treat selfishness?
5. What is Rand saying about the each of the themes? How do they impact humanity? What evidence of the themes do you find in the novella?

Things Worth Googling

1. Ayn Rand
2. Dystopia and Utopia
3. Types of Government
4. Ethical Egoism

-----There are TWO Parts to this Summer Reading Assignment-----

Part I: Dialectic Reader-Response Journal:

As you read you will keep personal notes for each chapter, using the attached Dialectic Reader-Response Journal guidelines. You must appropriately label your pages and have no less than 12 entries (one for each chapter). Your responses must connect to one of the following criteria: theme(s), character development, figurative language, or “Questions to Consider.” Be sure to read the directions on the attached sheet, especially the rubric, as that is how you will be graded.

Part II: Short Essays:

Select THREE of the following questions to answer. Your answers must adhere the following requirements and be supported with evidence from the text. Answer the questions, using language from the question, making strong claims, supporting claims with evidence from the text, and elaborating on your reasoning. Make sure to number your answers.

1. At first glance, most characters in *Anthem* appear to be near-automatons, blindly conforming to the rest of society. Upon closer study, however, we see that all of the characters in *Anthem*—Equality, International, Liberty, the Council members, everyone—make choices and decisions that affect their lives and their futures, for better or worse. **In short, they all possess the choice to think or not, and that choice determines everything else. Discuss this.**
2. Many people blame their hardships, poverty, or unhappiness on external conditions. “It’s not my fault,” they cry, “it’s because of the family, class, race, society, or culture into which I was born.” They believe that outside factors control and determine their lives. **Use Equality as an example to refute this deterministic view of man.**
3. *Anthem* is a heroic and inspiring story about the triumph of the individual’s independent spirit. Even though, at the end of the novel, Equality is greatly outnumbered, and modern society lies in ruins, it is a story of liberation and hope—not of despair. **Do you agree or disagree? Discuss.**
4. Aside from very rare exceptions (Equality, Saint at the Pyre) there is literally no opposition to the leaders in this society. **Why is that? What ideas must these men have accepted to live a life of obedience, drudgery, and fear?**
5. In *Anthem* Prometheus discovers the meaning of the word freedom. He states, “To be free, a must be free of his brothers. That is freedom. That and nothing else (101).” In fact, Ayn Rand defined freedom, in a political context, as “the absence of physical coercion (*Capitalism: The Unknown Ideal*).” This definition of freedom, however, stands in direct contrast to the one held by many modern thinkers, writers, and politicians. Today, modern liberals often assert, “Freedom must [entail]...an increased power on the part of the individual to share in the goods which society has produced and an enlarged ability to contribute to the common good (George Sabine, *A History of Political Theory*).” **Contrast Ayn Rand’s definition of freedom to that of modern liberals, and consider the form of government each would necessitate.**

MLA Requirements:

Your essay must adhere to:

1. MLA name procedure

New	Name
Teachers	Teacher’s Name
Can’t	Class Name
Dance	Day Month Year
2. MLA page numbers
3. Underlined thesis statement
4. Centered, creative title after MLA name procedure that connects to your thesis. Do not write “Summer Essay” or some other mundane title for your essay.
5. MLA works cited page at the end of the essay on a separate page. Please write “Teacher” as the instructor’s name in the MLA name procedure.
6. MLA internal citations within the essay. Cite after any reference to your novel or your source.
7. You must only cite from Rand’s novel. **DO NOT use Wikipedia, Sparknotes, or any other .com, .net, etc. site!** Failure to do so will result in a low grade for your essay.
8. Please consult the Internet on how to use these MLA requirements in your essay (PerdueOwl).

9. Your essay must be typed (double-spaced, 10-12 point, Arial or TNR font).
- Your essays must be between 3/4-1 page in length; **with ONE works cited page for all answers.**
 - Your shorts essay must reflect your own work and no one else's.
 - Please save your essay to a USB flash drive.
 - **Your essay will be graded on the following points**
 - Ideas and content** – Does your writing accomplish the assigned task with in-depth analysis and claims backed with evidence from the text?
 - Organization** – Does your writing contain an introduction, body paragraphs, and a conclusion?
 - Voice** – Are the tone and language appropriate for your intended audience?
 - Word Choice** – powerful verbs, precise nouns, appropriate adjectives and adverbs.
 - Sentence Fluency** – correct sentence structure, varied your sentence pattern.
 - Conventions** – Grammar, punctuation, and spelling

Competencies Assessed:

Analyze and interpret literature

Range of writing: reader-response and formal argument

ELA conventions

Expressing ideas and claims precisely with supporting textual evidence.