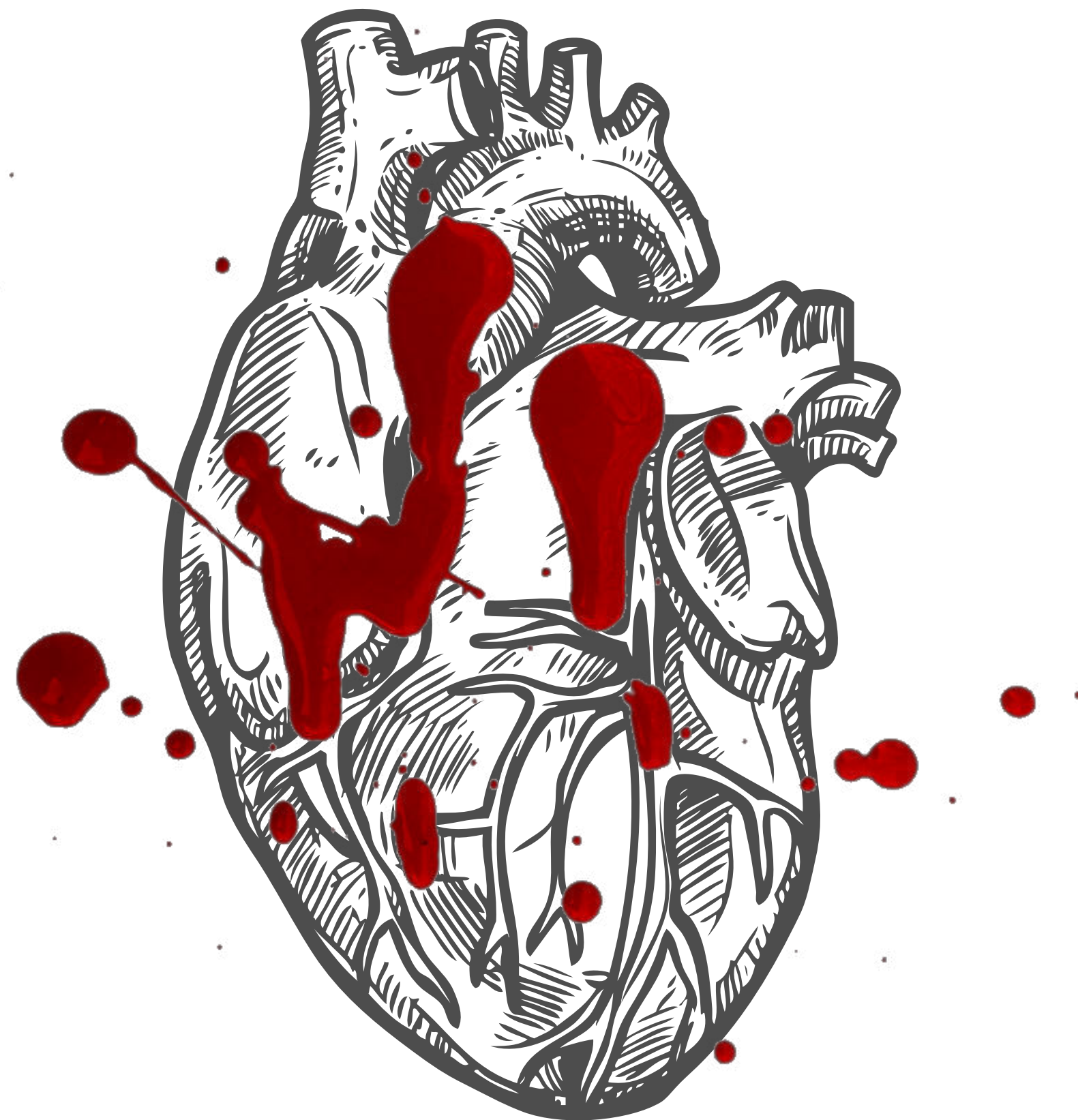


EDGAR ALLAN POE'S

# THE TELL-TALE HEART

CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE ACTIVITY



**DIGITAL OR IN-CLASS VERSION**

USING DIRECT QUOTES & PROVIDING ANALYSIS

# IN-PERSON DIRECTIONS

## MATERIALS NEEDED:

- one copy of each insanity test, posted at stations around the room/hallway/walls
- \*at least one highlighter, each a *different color*, at each insanity test station
- one copy of the answer sheet for each student or group
- a copy of the text for each student or group

*\*If you don't have enough copies or are using a textbook, you could have students lightly underline the quotes in pencil or use sticky notes, etc. instead of highlighting\**

## OBJECTIVES:

- Students will visit each station & complete the tasks on the answer sheet.
- At each **insanity test station**, students will use the test to determine whether or not the main character from the story qualifies as INSANE or NOT. Then, using the highlighter at each station, they will highlight the quote that best supports their answer.
- At the **degree of murder station**, students will follow the flowchart to determine which degree of murder the main character would be charged with. On their answer sheet, they must write 2-3 sentences explaining their decision.
- At the end, it's time for the **assessment** (back of answer sheet). Students choose ONE of the insanity stations they visited and write a constructed response paragraph utilizing the quote they highlighted and explaining how that evidence proves their answer.

# VIRTUAL OR DIGITAL DIRECTIONS

## MATERIALS:

- Visit the link below to **MAKE A COPY** of the Google Forms for yourself. This way, it should also be editable for you in case you want to make changes.
  - <https://bit.ly/3BUSj58>
- post the link to YOUR Google Form on your LMS
- link to an online copy of “The Tell-Tale Heart”
  - <https://poemuseum.org/the-tell-tale-heart/>

## OBJECTIVES:

- In the Google Form, students are introduced to each of the four insanity tests that are used/have been used in the United States for insanity pleas.
- At each **insanity test**, students will use the test to determine whether or not the main character from the story qualifies as INSANE or NOT.
- Then, at each insanity test, students must find a direct quote from the text that supports their answer. (They can copy+paste the quote from the online version of the text.)
- After that, they must explain why that quote proves their answer.
- At the **degree of murder question**, students will follow the flowchart to determine which degree of murder the main character would be charged with. Then, they must write 2-3 sentences explaining their decision.

# THE M'NAGHTEN RULE

Did the person  
**understand the nature of  
their actions?**

For example, did they understand that their actions  
were going to take a life?

**YES = not insane**

**NO = insane**

# MORAL PENAL CODE

Did the person understand  
that their actions were  
**wrong or criminal?**

For example, did they know they could get in trouble  
because of their actions?

**YES = not insane**

**NO = insane**

## INSANITY TEST #3

# IRRESISTABLE IMPULSE

Was the person **powerless or  
unable to control their actions**  
due to mental illness?

For example, did they know it was wrong but their  
mental illness caused them to have no self-control?

**YES = insane**

**NO = not insane**



# THE DURHAM RULE

**Did a diagnosed mental  
disease or defect cause  
them to commit the crime?**

For example, did they hear voices telling them to do it? Was it a "command from God?" Did they think the victim was a demon?

**YES = insane**

**NO = not insane**

## DEGREE OF MURDER

# WHAT'S THE CHARGE?

Follow the flowchart to determine what the main character will be charged with.

**First-degree  
murder?**

**Second-degree  
murder?**

**Manslaughter**

**Guilty but  
Insane?**





# WHAT SHOULD THE CHARGE BE?

Follow this chart to determine what the main character should be charged with.

