

English 10

Semester I Exam Study Guide 2016

General Information

The English 10 semester exam lasts two hours and the resulting mark produces 10% of your semester grade. Arrive at your testing location on time and bring your favorite lucky pens.

Here are the two most important pieces of advice:

1. Exam Preparation Strategy: You will respond to either a passage of narrative prose or a lyric poem; not both. BUT it makes best sense for you to prepare to analyze texts in both genres. Do not decide in advance which text you will choose.

2. Exam Writing Strategy: Think of the first 30 minutes of the exam as a preparation period. You will be given two texts, both of which you may annotate. Prepare thoroughly and outline your analytical response. The exam must be written in pen, but you may bring highlighters and pencils for making marginal notes on the textual passages.

Learn and follow the guidelines available on the handout entitled “English 10 In class Writing Tips,” which is posted to our Moodle page. Strategies for drafting, revision, and time management are available on that document. For example, extensive prewriting is strongly encouraged.

The two texts offered on the exam will be

- a brief passage from *The Catcher in the Rye* and
- a lyric poem we have not read in class.

Instructions and Expectations

You will select one text and write a literary analysis essay in response to it. In responding to either text, your literary analysis essay should

- open with an intriguing and informative **title**
- offer a **lead sentence** designed to make the audience want to read further
- include a brief **introduction** that includes a complete textual identification (author, title, genre) at the first mention of the source text
- present a **thesis** that
 - identifies the main idea of the essay as specifically as possible
 - is interesting enough to engage a skeptical audience by presenting an arguable [C→E] claim,
 - reveals the structure of the essay by indicating the order of the body paragraphs

- support the thesis with minimum of three (3) body paragraphs arranged in emphatic order
- develop **body paragraphs** that include
 - a complete ¶TS (transition + [C→E] claim)
 - (if writing about narrative prose) the narrative context to frame textual evidence
 - a minimum of three (3) pieces of textual evidence per paragraph
 - careful reasoning to explain how the textual evidence supports the ¶TS
 - appropriate employment of literary terms
 - a summary sentence
- close with a single **conclusion** paragraph consisting of one (1) sentence to recap the thesis and then a bit of “other” as we have defined it.

Suggested Preparation Strategies for Responding to Narrative Prose

- Carefully review the literary terms presented on the handout entitled “Narrative Literary Terms.”
- Review the handouts entitled “Elements of a Persuasive Essay,” “Prewriting Worksheet: Literary Analysis Essays,” and “English 10: In class Writing Tips.”
- Review the handouts posted to the Moodle page that guided your through the crafting of your literary analysis paragraphs, especially “Strategy for Writing Literary Analysis Paragraphs.”
- Review the literary analysis paragraphs you have submitted this semester, especially the writing assignments dedicated to analyzing Holden Caulfield’s character. Note the strengths of each and also the areas that reveal opportunities for improvement.
- Identify an important passage from *The Catcher in the Rye*, craft a practice question, draft a literary analysis essay under timed conditions, and then assess your answer using the “Checklist Guide for Literary Analysis Essays.”

Suggested Preparation Strategies for Responding to Lyric Poetry

- Carefully review the literary terms presented on the handout entitled “Glossary of Literary Terms: Poetry.”
- Review the handouts entitled “Elements of a Persuasive Essay,” “Prewriting Worksheet: Literary Analysis Essays,” and “English 10: In class Writing Tips.”
- Review the handouts posted to the Moodle page that guided you through the crafting and evaluation of that essay, especially “Exegesis Guided Prewriting Prompts” and “Strategy for Writing Literary Analysis Paragraphs.”
- Review the lyric poems we read together. For each poem, make notes about how the structural elements of the poem (imagery, figurative language, sound devices, rhythm, and form) produce the meaning of the poem. Then collect evidence that might allow you to demonstrate how the form of the poem and the meaning of the poem are interrelated.
- Carefully review your exegetical writing exercises and assess their strengths and opportunities for improvement.
- Using one of the practice poems posted to the Moodle page, craft a written exegesis paragraph under timed conditions, and then assess your answer using the “Checklist Guide for Assessment of Literary Analysis Essays.”