

AP English Language and Composition
Timed Writing: Faulkner's Nobel Prize Speech and *AILD*

This timed writing is a rhetorical analysis with a twist.

1. Distill from Faulkner's Nobel Prize Acceptance Speech the theme of the argument—the “what” discussed in my screencast and elsewhere. This is the matter of the argument Faulkner uses his work to make.
2. Then, use his rhetorical and stylistic moves in *As I Lay Dying* as the “how” of the rhetorical analysis, the methods you will analyze (not just name) in this short essay.

The prompt:

Analyze the rhetorical means Faulkner uses in his novel *As I Lay Dying* to promote the values set forth in his Nobel Prize Acceptance Speech.

Best methods:

1. Listen to both of my screencasts on rhetorical analysis to review material before starting. If you have time, read the high-scoring student sample rhetorical analysis from *5 Steps to a 5* on p. 209 to understand acuity of thesis, precision of language, and handling of analysis tasks.
2. Read the Nobel Prize speech several times in order to understand as precisely as you can what ideas Faulkner is most prominently setting forth. The speech is not easy, though it is for a general but intellectual audience. Do not get this purpose wrong! Be patient with the essay, annotating and contemplating.
3. Ponder the ways *As I Lay Dying* uses language to address those themes. Since this is a rhetorical analysis, you are interested in the linguistic moves made in the text. Something like characterization is a matter for AP Literature, not AP Lang. We are interested here in the moves Faulkner as rhetor makes in the novel in order to establish and promote the purpose set forth in the speech.
4. Outline carefully, being sure you have categories of discussion that relate to your thesis but that do not overlap soggly. Your categories should be crisp and discrete.
5. Establish a lively ethos. Your writing should itself be appealing to its audience and show some joy in discussing Faulkner's great work.