

AP English Language and Composition
Study Guide for Midterm

This midterm will support your understanding of *The Great Gatsby*, *The Scarlet Letter*, and Fascicle 13, even as it also addresses the skills emphasized in *They Say/I Say* and the forms of rhetorical analysis and rhetorical argument.

You will complete two essays, 45 minutes each. You will be given the whole test at once, so that you are able to divide your time as you need to.

I. Rhetorical analysis of a passage. You've had plenty of practice with this form. You will be given a passage from one of the texts we have read ("Indians," *The Great Gatsby*, Columbus's Journal, The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin, "The Custom House," *The Scarlet Letter*, or an Emily Dickinson poem) and asked to conduct a rhetorical analysis of it. Feel free to review the form of the rhetorical analysis via the assignment sheet for the paper you wrote and sample prompts from *5 Steps to a 5*.

II. Synthesis essay. The sourced argument paper you just finished is a synthesis essay, where you defend your own thesis and use sources as evidence and counterarguments. You'll be graded on the cogency of your argument as well as sophistication of your prose, your incorporation of sources as evidence, and your ability to cite. You have the sample questions from *5 Steps to a 5* to work from. Know that the subject matter I choose for the essay will be relevant to issues we have discussed in class; the lessons from our OOCM on eminent domain should also be helpful to your thinking about the methods of processing sources quickly and the importance of emphasizing your argument.