

English 11 (Grade-level English III)  
Study Guide for Midterm

The main text we have read in grade-level English III is *The Great Gatsby*. We have also studied academic writing through *They Say/I Say* along with logical fallacies and other tools for performing rhetorical analysis and rhetorical argument: the appeals, the stases, the rhetorical triangle, etc. We have made connections between *Gatsby* and some foundational American texts, mainly Franklin and Columbus, and we have read some short Transcendentalist excerpts. We are also getting practice at reading moderately difficult non-fiction, as in Jane Tompkins' "Indians" essay.

The midterm will consist of short answer and an essay.

The short answer questions will ask you to demonstrate the skills you have learned in response to a series of questions and passages. There will be questions about identifying the stases, the appeals, logical fallacies, etc., and in which you are asked to show a reasonable conversance with the ideas in *They Say/I Say*. You may also expect to show a reasonable understanding of causal and proposal arguments.

The essay will ask you to put these ideas into practice with a question overtly about *The Great Gatsby*.

We will complete practice questions in class next week.

\*\*\*\*\*

AP English Language and Composition  
Study Guide for Midterm

Your exam will mimic the AP Lang test in that it will ask you to complete one synthesis essay, which you will be able to prepare, and one rhetorical analysis, on one of the texts from class: *Spiritual Writings of Flannery O'Connor*, *The Great Gatsby*, *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*, an excerpt from Columbus or Franklin.

You may not bring any notes into the exam, but you will have access to the short texts listed below.

Consider *Pilgrim* as the inheritor of American nature writing. Read along in the following excerpts:

1. "Nature," by Ralph Waldo Emerson
2. "Self-Reliance," by Ralph Waldo Emerson
3. *Walden*, by Henry David Thoreau
4. a poem from Fascicle 13 by Emily Dickinson
5. "Thanatopsis" by William Cullen Bryant
6. "The Oxbow" by Thomas Cole

Choose at least three sources that you can use in conjunction with passages from *Pilgrim* in order to support, refute, or qualify the following claim:

Annie Dillard, through both the style and message of *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*, is the twentieth-century heir of American Transcendentalism.

You must write a strong, unified, exigent thesis that addresses the prompt and then complete a full-length essay.

Similarly, for the rhetorical analysis, you should review the 11 questions to consider when completing rhetorical analysis, and write an essay that emphasizes the rhetoric of the piece you discuss. The thesis of the essay should reflect our rhetorical analysis template: The writer uses x to argue y. Your syntax may vary, but these are the points to set forth. Topic sentences should be analytical in approach and relate the whole of the argument.

Your answers to both essays should integrate the class's lessons on appeals, stases, logical fallacies, source blending, along with the points emphasized in *They Say/I Say*.

We'll go over your rhetorical analysis papers on Friday.