

## Definition Essay (Anthem Related) TEST Grade Due 2.6

**MUST BE SUBMITTED IN HMH WRITABLE BY Monday, February 6th ALL Sections**

Begin in-class Sec E + C Wednesday // Sec B+ C // D continue

Write a five paragraph definition essay.

Choose only one of the following words from the "Anthem" project (37 - pages)

Philosophy

Freedom

Identity

Class

Happiness

Science

Love

Loyalty

Skill

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**Essay Prompt:** Explain a commonly used term or concept that is not easy to define. The term could be complicated, or it may simply mean different things to different people. Consider including the following elements in your essay: dictionary definitions, personal definitions, negative definitions (telling what it is *not*), comparisons, quotations, and anecdotes (stories). This definition will be read in a presentation before class.

1. **Choosing a Subject:** The term or concept being defined should be complex enough to require intelligent thought on your part. You may select a term from the list below, or generate your own.
2. **Gather Details:** First collect information about your subject by generating a brainstorm, jotting down anything relevant that comes to mind. Then refer to dictionaries, interviews, song lyrics, personal anecdotes, newspapers, the Internet or elsewhere.
3. **Create an Outline:** By arranging your details and various elements, you will be able to organize your essay. Plan on an outline that illustrates varied types of information, and build on previous points until you reach your most powerful argument.

4. **Write 1<sup>st</sup> Draft:** Referring to your notes and outline, you should begin your first draft by explaining the topic of definition and why this topic is of importance. Then write an essay that defines your term through the varied elements you've organized in your outline. Remember to be consistent with your voice!
5. **Write 2<sup>nd</sup> Draft:** After discussing the quality of your definition, the interest level of the reader, and your ability to focus on the topic, rewrite your essay with greater emphasis on sticking to the point. Also be sure that the second draft moves logically from one point to the next.
6. **Proofread:** Through peer-editing and writing conferences, gather feedback to help you perfect your paper. There should be *no* errors in the final draft.
7. **Final Draft:** Print a final copy with correct heading, numbering, and inventive title.

**Voice:** You may use **third person or first person voice** to define your term, but be consistent—only use words like “I” and “my” where *absolutely* necessary.

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## Notes on Extended Definition

### *Types of Definitions:*

Short – state the class to which the subject belongs and add any distinguishing features. (Good for introducing technical terms)

Stipulative – specifies the way you are using a term

Extended – applying various methods (i.e. example, classification) to clarify a purpose

1. tries to show the reader its subject
2. answers the question, “What makes this what it is, and not something else?”
3. Takes more than a single sentence to accomplish

### *Developing your essay:*

Thesis – Stated with the idea that governs clearly stated

1. Consider – have you focused your definition and kept within that focus, drawing clear boundaries around your subject?

Development – use a variety of methods

Evidence –

1. Is your definition specific?

2. Do examples, anecdotes, and concrete details pin down your subject and make it vivid for readers?
3. Have you uncovered obvious and subtle meanings?

*Questions to ask about your subject:*

1. Is this subject unique? If it resembles others, how? How is it different?
2. In what forms does it occur, while keeping its own identity?
3. When and where do we find it? Under what circumstances?
4. What is it at the present moment?
5. What does it do? What are its functions/activities?
6. How is it put together? What parts make it up? What holds these parts together?

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**TAKE NOTES IN CLASS TO COMPLETE THE STRONGEST OUTLINE**