

Mr. Francis
American Literature II

Second Marking Period Major Assignment

For the second marking period's major assignment, please address your last three response papers to revise and expand your ideas into a full-length essay addressing the challenge below. The relevant topics are as follows:

1. Virtue: The "bold and arduous project" as an effort to define virtue for our contemporary age
2. Personal or political needs: an effort to test Emerson's abstract Transcendentalist ideas in personal or political contexts.
3. Existentialism: an effort to address one or more existential ideas in which you place value to find meaning.

It may help to remember that Benjamin Franklin's is an Enlightenment era personal narrative, Henry David Thoreau's is a Romantic era memoir, and Ernest Hemingway's is a Modernist era work of fiction.

Your challenge: to address Franklin, Thoreau, and Hemingway from the standpoint of a contemporary adolescent's attitude towards virtue, personal or political needs, and existentialism. You must choose how best to organize this essay. It should be unified and cohesive, with a logical progression, effective transitions, and an appropriate conclusion.

Final drafts should reflect an effort to incorporate the instructor's comments on your specific response paper and the feedback received from classmates during peer editing.

N.B. Texts are available: Franklin as a .pdf at thatwasi.com, Thoreau as links to the e-texts at Project Guttenberg, and [A Farewell to Arms](#) as the books.

Length guidelines: 600-650 word.

Format guidelines: All submissions must be double-spaced with a Courier New font and one-inch margins all around.

Assessment: Your response will be assessed based on the Stuyvesant English Department Rubric.

Submission guidelines: Please upload to turnitin.com by 7:59 a.m. on the assigned due date.

Any assistance in completing this assignment should be noted in your works cited list or declaration. I will not tolerate academic dishonesty.