

Mr. Francis
American Literature II

Existential Angst Response

According to A Handbook to Literature (9th ed.), "In a broad sense modern is applied to writing marked by a strong and conscious break with tradition" (Harmon 318). The Lost Generation, a group of modern American writers traditionally said to include Ernest Hemingway and F. Scott Fitzgerald, "served in the First World War and reacted against certain tendencies of older writers in the 1920s" (Harmon 291).

Harmon writes: "Although by no means can all modern writers be termed philosophical existentialists, EXISTENTIALISM has created a schema within which much of the modern temper can see a reflection of its attitudes and assumptions" (318).

Choose one or more of the several traditions Hemingway rejects in A Farewell to Arms (1929) to address in the context of one or more existential ideas in which you place value. Possible topics include:

- love and marriage
- nationality and nationhood
- rank and class
- war or the Romanticism of war
- family and personal identity
- technology and humanity
- victory and defeat
- religion

Your challenge: To address the relevance of Hemingway's existential themes in our contemporary era. You must use several concrete details and pieces of quoted text from the novel.

Length guidelines: 200-350 words. Do not exceed two pages.

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 pass/fail based on how adequately and appropriately it addresses the prompt.

Submission guidelines: Late submissions will not be accepted. 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 declaration (including your classmates, the instructor, on-line resources, any printed material, etc.). I will not tolerate academic dishonesty.