

THE 'TRIPLE EIGHT'

ATTACKING THE AP EXAM ESSAY QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS 1 & 2

1. Analyze the prompt.
2. Find & mark verbs in the imperative and all conjunctions.
3. Identify all parts of the task.
4. Read the passage attentively and mark it up.
5. Identify speaker, the audience, the setting, and the occasion.
6. Identify the main purpose & tone.
7. Mark shifts in point of view, tone, or the like; mark any significant punctuation/pointing.
8. In poetry, note if a rhyme scheme or the arrangement on the page helps reveal organization.

QUESTION 3

1. Cover the list of suggested works.
2. Analyze the prompt
3. Ignore any opening quotations or other material.
4. Find and mark all verbs in the imperative.
5. Identify all parts of the task, including any that might be implied rather than explicit.
6. Go back and read the opening of the prompt.
7. Decide on a work to use
8. Uncover and scan the suggested titles.

ALL QUESTIONS

1. Write down a plan.
Do not let the prompt dictate your organization.
2. Leave a space for an introduction.
3. Remember your audience.
4. Write legibly in ink.
5. Refer often to the text but avoid direct quotations of more than four words
6. Avoid plot summary and paraphrase.
7. Follow all detail from the text with your commentary; use the ratio of two pieces of your commentary to every one of detail from the text.
8. Avoid 'name calling,' the identification of literary elements without explaining why the writer is using them.