

American Romanticism Final Essay: 30% of Grade: DRAFT DUE _____.

THIS ESSAY WILL CHECK YOUR MASTERY OF THE FOLLOWING CA FOCUS STANDARDS:

LRA 3.2 Analyze the way in which the theme or meaning of a selection represents a view or comment on life, using textual evidence to support the claim.

LRA 3.4 Analyze the ways in which poets use figures of speech to evoke readers emotions.

RC 2.5 Analyze an author's implicit and explicit philosophical beliefs.

THE PROMPTS: Although Romanticism has clear beginnings in Europe, authors in the United States embraced it as a way to reinvent and reinvigorate American identity and creativity. Like their European counterparts, these thinkers, scholars, and artists looked at technological and economic progress with an eye of suspicion and found new possibilities in a movement that glorified nature and the imagination.

STEP 1: Choose ONE of the following literary pieces we have read during this unit:

- ___ "The Devil and Tom Walker" by Washington Irving
- ___ "Self-Reliance" by Ralph Waldo Emerson
- ___ "Nature" by Ralph Waldo Emerson
- ___ "The Minister's Black Veil" by Nathaniel Hawthorne
- ___ "The Pit and the Pendulum" by Edgar Allan Poe

STEP 2: Choose one of the following prompts

OPTION A: Write an essay that identifies the story/essay's Romantic theme/main idea and purpose. Describe the tone and mood of the text and explain how the author uses imagery, figures of speech, and symbolism to communicate its philosophical message. Provide clear and accurate examples and evidence from the text and analyze by using insightful commentary and criticism.

OPTION B: Write an essay that describes the features of American Romanticism and shows how the author and his work are part of the Romantic literary tradition by explaining how their story/essay exhibits each of the following characteristics.

1. Values feeling and intuition over reason
2. Celebrates unspoiled nature
3. Contemplates nature's beauty as a path to spiritual and moral development.
4. Prefers youthful, naïve innocence to educated sophistication.

Provide clear and accurate examples and evidence from the text and analyze by using insightful commentary and criticism.

OPTION C: Write an essay that compares and contrasts the attitudes and values of Transcendentalists and Dark Romantics toward nature, intuition, morality, and truth. Use at least two of the texts we have studied during this unit as support.