*5 Steps to a 5* Chapter 5: “The Prose Passage Essay”

Write all answers/responses/paragraphs on separate paper, numbering them as indicated. Follow instructions for all work that is done in the book/packet itself.

Get out paper, a black pen, red pen, and highlighters. For the time being, give the pencil to your younger sibling or family pet***. Follow my instructions carefully***. Estimated time total: 2 hours. I suggest breaking this assignment into 2-3 days. Do not try to do it all at once. And most importantly, do not take any shortcuts on any of this. A thorough job with this one assignment will improve your essays tremendously. Remember, there are no shortcuts to success.

**1**. Read pages 59 to the middle of page 62 carefully. List 3 items of information that are either new to you or that seem interesting or surprising.

Highlight everything that you think is important.

If you need to review the literary terms, do so now. Keep your list of terms handy.

P. 60: Read the types of prompts used for the prose passage essay; you will need to be familiar with them.

Look at the schedule (Timing the Essay) on page 62. Think about what your time strategy plan should look like.

**2.** “Working the Prompt” [This part is very important; ***read every word carefully and follow all directions in the workbook***]

Summarize the Key Idea on page 62.

Read the section on “Reading and Notating the Prose Passage.” Explain what you think are the 2 most important reasons to do a careful annotation of the AP prompt. Give your reasons.

Decide which of these strategies you want to use and do so with the passage on p. 64, using whatever system you want to devise. [This took me 15 minutes, not 8-10 minutes like the workbook says. I used 3 different colors of highlighters. I will check this.]

Study their analysis (pp. 64-65). This approach would have been somewhat unwieldy for me, but it is important that you develop shorthand that works for YOU.

Complete the “Your Turn” sections on pages 66 and 67. You do not have to use separate paper for this. You may write in the boxes provided.

**3.** P. 67: READ/STUDY “Writing the Opening Paragraph”

Write your own opening paragraph. Does yours closely match A,B, C, or D? Study the differences for each on p. 68. We will go over this more in class, because, frankly, I don’t like any of these opening paragraphs. ☺

**4.** Read pp. 69 to the top of p. 71 carefully. On page 71 where it says “Do this now,” follow my instructions instead.

The first fourth of each class will write ONE paragraph about imagery.

The second fourth will write ONE paragraph about the motif of time.

The third fourth will write ONE paragraph about diction.

The fourth fourth will write ONE paragraph about style.

You do not have to write the entire body of the essay.

TIP: p. 70: STUDY GROUP = KEY TO SUCCESS. Many of you already communicate with one another via texts or Twitter or other social media, but you should also form a study group. Limit it to 3-5 people. Stay away from slackers. You know who they are. Include a task-master—someone who will drive you to success and keep you on track. Include someone with parents who will welcome you into their home. Include a baker (or at least someone with Papa John’s number on speed dial). Include someone who understands satire, irony, and humor.

**5.** Stop at the bottom of page 70 and summarize the authors’ advice about conclusions.

Read Student Sample A (p.71) and B (p.72), using the red pen and highlighters. I WILL CHECK THIS.

Highlight analytical statements; write a C:\Users\mcchesnj\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\0UWBPS6I\MC900433820[1].png beside something thought-provoking.

Write Q in the margin by each quotation integrated within the essay.

If you recognize an epiphany (insight), underline it and write E! in the margin.

Circle all the verbs that refer to the action of a/the writer. For example, in the 1st paragraph I circled “offers,” “captures,” “employing,” “alternating,” “demonstrates,” and “illustrating.”

**6.** Read carefully the explanations for the rubrics on pages 73-74.

Write two interesting comments about 9 essays and two interesting comments about 2 essays.

Read the reasons given for Sample A being a higher level paper and Sample B a medium level paper.

Beside each comment, make a check if you can see this, a “?” if you are not sure, or “no” if you did not until reading the comments.

**7.** Complete the Your Turn section on pages 75-76. Review the types of prose passage essay questions for ideas.

**8.** Read the Rapid Review on page 76. Of the items listed, which are the top 3 that you need to work on?

**9**. Write the three most important things you learned from this entire chapter.