

Humanities Essay 1: Impact of Faith

Due Dates:

- Outline - _____ (40 points)
- Rough Draft - _____ (60 points)
- Final Draft - _____ (200 points)

Worth: 300 Points Total

Specifics:

- *Length:* 3 page minimum
- *Format:* 12-point standard font, Times New Roman; **MLA citation format.** Review <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/557/01/> to help with MLA.
- The revised essay needs to be submitted at two places: in class on the due date and www.turnitin.com, before 11:59 PM. I will NOT read your essay unless it is turned in to turnitin.com. If the essay is late in submitting to turnitin.com, or class it is considered late and will be docked 1 letter grade per day.
- **Plagiarism is not allowed and will result in a failing grade.**
- Turnitin.com Info: Class ID#- _____ Password- **essay**

Prompt:

Argue whether or not religion has played a role in the lives of John Donne and Gerard Manley Hopkins. Identify different areas impacted by religion in your argument and use the poems we went over in class to support your argument. This is not a research paper. I want all of your information to come from what we have discovered about these two men in class.

You may want to structure your essay this way:

Introduction- Obviously, introduce the topic of the essay. This is where you should also discuss the context of the essay. Discuss religion in general and how it impacts people at the beginning, and then narrow your focus to the beginning of a discussion of John Donne and Gerard Manley Hopkins. Have a thesis statement that takes a stand on the discussion.

Body Paragraphs 1-?- In each body paragraph you need to identify specific areas of John Donne and Gerard Manley Hopkins' lives that were impacted by their faith.

You need to take specific examples from the poems that we went over in class to support your discussion of the impact of faith in the lives of these two men. You should have at least 2 body paragraphs on each writer. Do not combine the authors.

Conclusion- Revisit your thesis statement. Summarize your key points and relate what you are writing about to the big picture. Finish with a strong closing statement.

Donne/Hopkins Essay Outline Format

ESSAY TITLE

Introduction:

- I. Attention Getter/Hook (I actually want you to place the quote/scenario opening here)
- II. Thesis Statement (Write out your actual thesis. You must have your subtopics and unifying element. You should try to make it an open thesis. Try to move away from ABC thesis statements.)

Body Paragraphs (The format should look the same for each body paragraph. Please do the following for each body paragraph for your essay)

- I. Topic Sentence (Write out the sentence. Each topic sentence should have the unifying element and a subtopic)
 - a. For example: John Donne's Perception of death was impacted negatively and positively by his faith.
- II. Concrete Detail (Place the quote here that supports the first point you want to make)
- III. Concrete Detail (Same rules apply from above. Place the quote to support the second point in your paragraph)
- IV. Transition Sentence (Write the sentence that will transition you to your next body paragraph)

Conclusion

- I. Revisit Your Thesis (Write the sentence that will begin your conclusion here)
- II. Strong Closing Statement (Write the final sentence of your conclusion here)

(TS) John Donne's faith encouraged both negative and positive feelings about death. **(CD)** In the poem Holy Sonnet 1 John Donne says, "Despair behind, and death before doth cast/Such terror, and my feeble flesh doth waste/By sin in it, which it t'wards hell doth weigh." **(COM1)** In this part of the poem Donne is sharing that he knows that his flesh is wasting away and he is near death. The speaker shares a fear of death that is motivated by how he has led his life. The speaker feels "despair" because he knows that the sinful life he has lead will send him to hell. **(COM 2)** In this poem we see how John Donne's faith gives him a negative perception of death. The belief that when we pass away we live in hell if we have lived a life of sin is an example of how John Donne's life may have been impacted by his faith. It is his religious beliefs that tell him that sin is something that will lead to an afterlife spent in hell. **(COM 3)** People who do not have faith may still fear death. But death for the non-believer is not something to be feared because of what may happen after we die, the non-believer does not believe in heaven or hell. The non-believer fears death because it is the end of life. Donne's convictions were influenced by his faith and death was something to be feared because of what awaits the sinner. **(PT)** However in Sonnet 10 John Donne's faith gives him a positive perception of death. **(CD)** In this sonnet he discusses death and says, "Death be not proud, though some have called thee/Mighty and dreadful, for thou art not so...One short sleep past, we wake eternally, /And death shall be no more; death, thou shalt die." **(COM 1)** In this part of the poem Donne is saying that he is not afraid of death. He thought death was a big thing but now knows it is something that happens to everyone and it is not something to fear. He in fact mocks death claiming that is just a "short sleep" and that people who die actually "wake eternally," or go to heaven. **(COM 2)** In this poem Donne's faith gives Donne a positive perception of death. He knows he will go to heaven after he dies for living a good life because his faith tells him that people who have not sinned

need not fear death. His faith tells him that we in fact have the power over death because if a person has faith, they share the belief with Donne that heaven awaits. **(COM 3)** Again, this is a belief that only the true believer can hold. People without faith do not have a belief in heaven and will only fear death. The non-believer can never see death as a positive thing because they do not see eternity in heaven as an option after death. If Donne did not have faith he might see death as just the end of life. He wouldn't have a belief in heaven. He has this because he has faith. **(Trans)** There are other areas of Donne's life impacted by his faith.