

**AP LANGUAGE – Out-of-Class Essay – Transcendentalism and *The Scarlet Letter***  
**Rough Draft / Peer Review: Tuesday, 11/6 (either hard copy or Google Drive)**  
**Final Draft: Submitted to BOTH Google Classroom / TurnItIn.com by midnight Wednesday, 11/7**  
**Length: 900-1100 Words**

You will be writing a formal, mostly out-of-class essay on Transcendentalism and *The Scarlet Letter*.

Your final product must be in MLA format. While outside research is not required for this assignment, your paper should have a works cited page; it is highly possible that your only sources for your essay are your Transcendentalism text(s) and *The Scarlet Letter*. If you do consult other sources, you should add those sources to your bibliography. (Please do not use Shmoop, SparkNotes, and other similar resources as sources for your essay. Also, please do not use generic sources like “BrainyQuotes.com” for your essay.)

You should also use parenthetical documentation to verify any quotes or other evidence that you use in the body of your paper. An example parenthetical appears at the end of this sentence (Lister 17).

While I will be happy to address any questions you have about this essay, I also expect you to be able to take these topics and make something out of them.

**TOPIC: Could *The Scarlet Letter* be considered a Transcendentalist novel?**

In other words, do certain characters, situations, symbols, settings, etc. represent or counter the fundamental tenets of Transcendentalism?

To support your argument, you should include two or three reasons why this novel could or could not be considered a Transcendentalist novel. Each reason will likely incorporate a quote from either Emerson or Thoreau, along with a specific illustration of how *The Scarlet Letter* does or does not illustrate that belief.

(If you want to create a more sophisticated argument—which I encourage—you could include a counterargument to your primary argument. We will discuss how to handle counterarguments in class.)

**ESSAY TIMELINE**

FRI, 10/26: Receive essay assignment  
THU, 11/1: Work on essay during class  
FRI, 11/2: Work on essay during class  
MON, 11/5: Work on essay during class  
TUES, 11/6: Peer Review—must have a complete draft (I will be checking for them)  
WED, 11/7: Essay due by midnight to Google Classroom AND Turn It In

**SHAMELESS WRITING CENTER PROMOTION**

T, Th, Fri: 7:10-7:40 a.m.

M & W: 2:45-3:30 p.m.

Schedule an appointment at [bhswritingcenter.weebly.com](http://bhswritingcenter.weebly.com) (it's easy!)

If you are at a loss for how to organize this essay, here is one suggestion. Other organizational models may be used. You should organize in the way that best suits you and provides an organic approach to the topic.

	<b>One Possible Organization Strategy</b>
<b>Paragraph #1</b>	Introduction: Clearly introduce the topic – overview of Transcendentalist traits and <i>The Scarlet Letter</i> ; thesis should reflect your argument and your reasoning.
<b>Paragraph #2</b>	Point 1: --Identify/explain one Transcendentalist trait (possibly include a quote) . --Connect trait to <i>The Scarlet Letter</i> (possibly include a quote).
<b>Paragraph #3</b>	Point 2: --Same as paragraph 2.
<b>Paragraph #4</b>	Point 3 (if needed): --Same as paragraphs 2 & 3.
<b>Paragraph #5</b>	Point 4 (optional, but encouraged, counterargument): --Establish contradiction to earlier claims; identify <i>SL</i> element that provides that contradiction (possibly include the quote). --“Deal with” the counterargument (we will discuss this in class)
<b>Paragraph #6</b>	Conclusion: --Emphasize your main point --Recap (briefly) your main points --Include a relevant quote if you think it applies --Provide closure

REMEMBER: Body paragraphs should be balanced – each of a similar length and each containing relatively the same amount of quoted evidence/support.

TAKE TIME to plan and proofread.