

***In-class Writing Practice***  
***Preparation for Essay One***

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**The following in-class writing activities should be completed at home if you are unable to complete them in class. Submit these writing practices in your essay one package to demonstrate your participation and thoughtful development of the writing process. These may be handwritten.**

**Part I: Reading Responses**

Write a short paragraph (3-5 sentences) in response to the following questions on “Hills Like White Elephants” and “The Story of an Hour.”

1. Summarize the plot of the story.
2. Describe the most memorable passage in the story for you. Zoom in on a particular scene that created an image in your mind.
3. What is the author’s overall purpose in writing this essay?
4. What issue in the essay interests you the most? List four passages in the story that relate to this issue.

**Part II: Prewriting Activities: Focus on freewriting, brainstorming, and clustering**

**I. Freewriting:** (Automatic writing) Fill a page responding to the topic without revising or censoring your thoughts. Do not stop writing. Write whatever comes to your mind as you focus on the subject. Spend a few minutes freewriting on an issue in the story. Then, freewrite on an issue in the second story that you are considering.

**II. Brainstorming:** Create a list of ideas related to the issues in each of these short stories. Like freewriting, include all potential ideas. Do not judge or reject any ideas related to the topic. Record the ideas collected in our class brainstorm on each of these readings.

**III. Cubing** (considering a subject from six points of view) (For a literary analysis use a subject such as the setting of the story, a central character, or the narrative point of view)

1. **\*Describe\*** it (What images come to your mind? Include colors, shapes, smells, tastes, and sounds.)
2. **\*Compare\*** it (What is it similar to?)
3. **\*Associate\*** it (What does it make you think of?)
4. **\*Analyze\*** it (Examine it in sections or parts.)

5. *\*Apply\** it (How does it relate to your life or our world?)
6. *\*Argue\** for or against an issue that it addresses.

Complete a Cubing activity on an issue in either of the readings that you prefer to focus on. Select an issue that you have developed in one of the previous activities.

#### **IV. Clustering:** (writing and nonlinear drawing)

Write the main topic in the center of the page. List related ideas around the main idea leaving room to add additional words/ideas to each related topic.

Begin a clustering activity on an issue in either story.

**V. Journalistic Questions:** Who is the short story about? What happened and what were the results? When did it happen? Where? Why? How?

Write a short sample paragraph in response to one of the two readings.

**After completing the short, in-class practices of these 5 prewriting activities, select the two prewriting strategies that you found most productive and develop a full typed (clustering map may be handwritten) page of writing in response to the issue that you would like to argue about in essay one. These writing responses will enable you to generate ideas to potentially develop your essay.**

#### **Part III: Tree Diagram (Read chap 25 , outline and draft)**

Write a tentative thesis sentence stating the narrowed topic or central idea, the argumentative claim about that topic and suggesting the supporting ideas your paper will develop.

Make a chart with 4 main ideas in four sections of your paper. Under each main topic heading, branch down to two or more ideas that relate to it. Then, add words and ideas that relate to each of these to further develop each section of the diagram.

**Include a quote from the essay to relate to each main topic.**

Bring all of this writing to class. We will continue to discuss your essay one process, the strength of your thesis, and the four paragraph subtopics you have selected to provide evidence in support of your thesis.