

Name: _____ Prompt: _____ AP Exam essay prompt organizer

1. Underline the significant words of the prompt.
2. What does the passage or poem mean? What is author's purpose and main idea? What issues and/or ideas does the passage/ poem explore? You need to focus your introduction on these ideas.
3. Identify *quotations* from the passage/poem that are significant, ones that you will focus on and use for evidence. Mark *diction* that is particularly vivid.
4. How does the passage or poem mean? What primary *literary devices* does the author use to reveal or reinforce meaning? (Focus on no more than three or four devices.)
5. What is the tone of the passage? What is the author's and the speaker's attitude? Is the author's attitude different from that of the speaker?

6. What opposition exists in the passage or poem? Identify specific examples of opposing images, characters, settings, situations, and stylistic elements. (Remember that opposition is crucial to complexity—which is central to the AP Exam.)

Examples:

- naïve character in contrast to sophisticated character
- setting that begins in parlor and ends at a camp side (inside vs. outside)
- intellectual style that probes an unrefined character or topic
- simple scene described with complicated imagery

7. What is the *theme*? What does the passage or poem reveal about human nature or the human condition? Make sure to include this idea in your conclusion.

8. Don't limit your analysis with an outline. Allow your ideas to develop as you write. Don't worry about being wrong. Write with confidence in your ideas.