



English 3B: American Literature and Composition
Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*



Character Essay



At the conclusion of our reading and discussion of the novel, you will be required to write an essay in which you explore how Huck Finn progresses through the stages of Kohlberg's Theory of Moral Development.

In each body paragraph, explain Huck's level of moral development according to Kohlberg's Theory of Moral Development and use two or three direct quotes from the text of the novel to develop the main point of the paragraph. When you use a direct quote from the text of the novel, embed the direct quote into the context of your sentence, put the direct quote in quotation marks, and put the page number in parentheses following the direct quote. Remember to use single quotation marks around a quote within a quote. Following is an example of how to embed direct quotes from the text of the novel:

At the conclusion of chapter fifteen, Jim teaches Huck a valuable lesson in friendship and empathy when he says, "Dat truck dah is trash; en trash is what people is dat puts dirt on de head er dey fren's en makes 'em ashamed" (233). By suggesting that Huck is trash, Jim makes Huck feel guilty and ashamed, which motivates Huck to "humble" (233) himself to Jim and promise never to play another trick on him again. In fact, Huck admits that up until this point in the novel he never "knowed it [playing a trick on Jim] would make him [Jim] feel that way" (233). This suggests that Huck is beginning to feel empathy for Jim, which suggests that Huck is moving into the post-conventional level of moral development. However, his morality has not yet been put to the test. Huck's newfound empathy and respect for Jim is put to the test in chapter sixteen when he confronts the slave hunters.

*This essay will be written in class on **Tuesday, February 28, 2012!** You will be able to use your notes and books to write the essay!*



Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*
Huck's Moral Development Essay Prompt and Outline



Option 1

- I. Introduction
 - A. Generate interest and provide background information: Explain Kohlberg's Theory of Moral Development, introduce *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, and introduce Huck Finn.
 - B. State your thesis: Does Huck progress through all three levels of moral development according to Kohlberg's Theory of Moral Development?
- II. Beginning (Chapters 1-15): At what level of moral development is Huck?
 - A. Topic sentence with transition
 - B. Example from the text with explanation
 - C. Example from the text with explanation
 - D. Example from the text with explanation
 - E. Clincher sentence
- III. Middle (Chapters 15-31): At what level of moral development is Huck?
 - A. Topic sentence with transition
 - B. Example from the text with explanation
 - C. Example from the text with explanation
 - D. Example from the text with explanation
 - E. Clincher sentence
- IV. End (Chapters 31-43): At what level of moral development is Huck?
 - A. Topic sentence with transition
 - B. Example from the text with explanation
 - C. Example from the text with explanation
 - D. Example from the text with explanation
 - E. Clincher sentence
- V. Conclusion
 - A. Summarize main points.
 - B. Restate thesis.
 - C. Leave a lasting impression.



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Option 2



- I. Introduction
 - A. Generate interest and provide background information: Explain Kohlberg's Theory of Moral Development, introduce *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, and introduce Huck Finn.
 - B. State your thesis: Does Huck progress through all three levels of moral development according to Kohlberg's Theory of Moral Development?
- II. Pre-conventional behavior: At what point in the novel does Huck display pre-conventional behavior?
 - A. Topic sentence with transition
 - B. Example from the text with explanation
 - C. Example from the text with explanation
 - D. Example from the text with explanation
 - E. Clincher sentence
- III. Conventional behavior: At what point in the novel does Huck display conventional behavior?
 - A. Topic sentence with transition
 - B. Example from the text with explanation
 - C. Example from the text with explanation
 - D. Example from the text with explanation
 - E. Clincher sentence
- IV. Post-conventional behavior: At what point in the novel does Huck display post-conventional behavior?
 - A. Topic sentence with transition
 - B. Example from the text with explanation
 - C. Example from the text with explanation
 - D. Example from the text with explanation
 - E. Clincher sentence
- V. Conclusion
 - A. Summarize main points.
 - B. Restate thesis.
 - C. Leave a lasting impression.