

Name _____

***Inherit the Wind* Theme Essay
Instructions, Outline, + Drafting Checklist**

ASSIGNMENT: Write a 5 paragraph essay identifying and analyzing a **theme** from *Inherit*. Your essay must include relevant examples and quotes that support your thesis.

Remember that there is a difference between a topic and a theme. A theme summarizes the play's message about a topic.

Example from *Odyssey*: Topic = loyalty.

- **Unacceptable thesis statement:** Loyalty appears a lot in the *Odyssey*: Odysseus, Penelope, and Eumaeus are all loyal. (There is no theme stated/ just a topic.)
- **Acceptable thesis statement:** One key message of the *Odyssey* is that loyalty to a leader is worthwhile quality; characters who show loyalty are rewarded, while disloyal servants and subjects are punished. (Here a theme—a message about a key topic—is identified.)

- In this essay you will be graded on **your understanding** of *Inherit the Wind* and **your skills in developing a thesis-based essay**. Make sure that you select a theme about which you feel you will have enough information and understanding to write a **well-developed** essay. The body of your essay will explain *how* this theme is presented. Make sure you have **three separate** ways in which the authors present this theme (perhaps three different characters whose actions, words and outcome convey the theme).

★ Your essay must support your arguments with **cited proof** (specific examples or quotes) from the text and with **clear, logical analysis** that would convince an open-minded reader.

★ By the time you turn in your essay for its grade, your essay must be **revised and edited** to meet the targets listed on the rubric/ checklist I give to you.

Grading: The essay will be graded according to a modified version of the PA rubric. The first graded draft will be worth a maximum of 70 points, and the final draft will be worth a maximum of 70 points.

Quote/ documentation requirements

You must have at least one quote from the text in each body paragraph of this essay. In addition to the quote requirement, you must support all your statements about the play by citing the specific part of the play on which you are relying. **This means that every time you are relying on the text to support your statements, you need to give a specific cited example or cited quote** to show your reader the evidence from the play that backs up your assertions/ statements about the play.

I hope your words and ideas flow as effortlessly as they do for Hornbeck!