

AP Literature and Composition: Kafka SOAPS Activity

Etexs: *A Hunger Artist, Before the Law, An Imperial Message*

Group work: *What can you say about Kafka's themes and stylistic techniques?*

Technique: *SOAPS on your reading: Combine **all pieces** and write at least three sentences per aspect. (Do NOT use *The Metamorphosis* for this.)*

Content

- **Subject:** What issues does he explore concerning the human condition? (Poet W. H. Auden said Kafka is important because to us because his predicament is the predicament of the modern man. Using his work, precisely explain that predicament.)
- **Occasion:** What sorts of scenarios does he create? (Kafka said "I am separated from all things by a hollow space, and I do not even reach to its boundaries.") How is that sentiment reflected in his pieces?
- **Audience:** Who does he seem to be addressing?
- **Purpose:** (British critic Anthony Thorlby wrote, Kafka certainly does not provide and interpretation of the world. What he provides is an image of how experience looks when all interpretations are called into doubt.) What is called into doubt and what does the image look like?
- **Style:** Use examples to comment on Kafka's style

Evaluation:

9 Writings earning a 9 meet all the criteria of 8 and in addition are particularly fluent and analytical in support of evaluative remarks.

8 Writings properly formatted. All entries demonstrate extensive critical thought and reflection about the text. Commentary is characterized by conversational voice and inferences are supported with adequate specific detail. The writer convincingly explains reasons for various reactions to works. Whether through use of suggestions in handout or other means of discourse, all entries are substantive.

7/6 Writings in this range are not as consistently analytical or evaluative as those scoring 8.

5 Writing do not demonstrate the reader awareness of 7/6 journals. Some entries may lack sufficient explanation, reaction, critical thought, or specific detail. Some may be one dimensional and somewhat superficial. They may not convincingly convey extensive understanding of assigned texts.

4/3 Writings may rely too much on plot summary and unsupported generalization. The may need development.

2/1 Writing lack sufficient discussion.