

TIPS FOR WRITING A TIMED ESSAY

- Thoroughly read the question so that you know what it is asking. Specifically respond to the question/s being asked.
- Spend a portion of your time organizing your essay before you start writing (write a thesis statement, outline, etc.)
- Know where you're going before you start. If you write a tentative thesis statement that attempts to answer the question, you'll be on the right track.
- You won't have time to write a complete intro (one that moves from general to specific, as in a normal paper), but try to write a one or two sentence lead in to your thesis statement.
- Include the title (underlined) and author in your introduction.
- Do not waste a lot of time looking for quotations. Try to identify potentially important quotations the night before and mark them.
- Be sure to explain the significance of the quotations you're using. Don't let them stand alone and expect the reader to be able to figure out why they're important.
- Use only quotations that support the main point you're trying to get across (thesis).
- Though you may be running out of time, try to attach a brief conclusion to give your response a complete feel.
- When you think you're finished, reread your thesis statement to make sure it is what you actually wrote about in your body paragraphs. If not, revise thesis.
- With any remaining time, proofread so that you can correct any mistakes you've made.