



Recommended Materials ↓	Prose Essay Guide ↓	Common Devices ↓	6 Point Prose Rubric* ↓
<p>Here are some things to make sure you have ahead of time for when you are taking your exam:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fiveable Cram Chart (This)</li> <li>• Full Prose Essay Rubric</li> <li>• Paper and Writing Utensils</li> <li>• Prepared Method of Annotation</li> <li>• Whatever helps you focus (comfortable clothes, water, music, etc.)</li> <li>• Undisturbed Workspace</li> <li>• Materials/devices needed for chosen submission method</li> <li>• Any helpful lists or guides from your teacher</li> </ul>	<p>5 steps for successfully writing the prose essay in 45 minutes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. READ the prompt.</li> <li>2. REPHRASE the prompt as questions.</li> <li>3. READ and ANNOTATE the passage (look for answers to your questions and potential pieces of textual evidence).</li> <li>4. WRITE your thesis and plan your body paragraphs.</li> <li>5. BE MINDFUL of time constraints, but don't compromise the quality of your writing because of stress. Pace yourself.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Note:</b> Describing what the devices are doing is more important than knowing or identifying devices in the passage! These are some common devices to look for if you are stuck:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tone</li> <li>• Mood</li> <li>• Imagery</li> <li>• Figurative Language - Metaphor, Simile</li> <li>• Diversity in Syntax</li> <li>• Characterization</li> <li>• All</li> <li>• Patterns in Diction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>1 Point Thesis:</b> Responds to the prompt with a thesis that presents a defensible interpretation of the passage.</li> <li>• <b>4 Points Evidence and Commentary:</b> EVIDENCE: Provides specific evidence to support all claims in a line of reasoning. AND COMMENTARY: Consistently explains how the evidence supports a line of reasoning. AND Explains how multiple literary elements or techniques in the passage contribute to its meaning.</li> <li>• <b>1 Point Sophistication:</b> Demonstrates sophistication of thought and/or develops a complex literary argument. *From the College Board</li> </ul>
Writing Your Intro ↓	Writing Your Thesis ↓	Writing Body Paragraphs ↓	Writing Your Conclusion ↓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Have a hook.</b> Before you write your thesis statement, there should be 2-3 sentences that engage the reader and ultimately RELATE to what your main point is.</li> <li>• <b>Don't use general statements</b> like "a wise man once said..." or "a long time ago..."</li> <li>• This is your chance to bring <b>real nuanced thought</b> into your argument. You shouldn't put all your eggs in one basket and reveal all your points in the intro, but it is best to include <b>some kind of sophistication</b> to have the reader be on your side and want to give you points.</li> <li>• Make sure you <b>include your thesis</b> within the introduction and <b>give the reader some context</b>, too.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Answer the prompt.</b> Doesn't matter how many fancy words you try to fit into the thesis, you HAVE TO ANSWER THE PROMPT. You get one point for starting a clear, defensible thesis. Take it.</li> <li>• <b>A thesis needs to mention every point</b> you are raising in your body paragraphs. Usually there are 3 points, and therefore 3 paragraphs. Let your thesis determine your essay's organization, but don't make it boring or predictable. Use your writing style to inform how you organize your thesis—DON'T subscribe to a formula that feels awkward.</li> <li>• <b>Do not describe the text, dissect it.</b> Explain the "so what?" question that the prompt asks for. It is crucial that you go past surface level reasoning.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Write idea-based topic sentences.</b> Don't make the topic sentences fact-based; rather, start with a broad idea and use your evidence and commentary to support the idea.</li> <li>• <b>Do not confuse the narrator and the author.</b> The narrator is who is telling the story and is often from their perspective. The author is the one who wrote the story. The narrator relays the opinion but the author writes it.</li> <li>• <b>Commentary cannot be naked.</b> It needs to be dressed up in evidence and literary devices. The best commentary comes from those that are supported by strong evidence in the text and reveal your main points.</li> <li>• <b>Each body paragraph</b> of your essay is to be solely focused on the reason you stated in your thesis statement. <b>Be organized.</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>A conclusion is not necessarily a regurgitation of the introduction.</b> The conclusion is where you introduce new ideas (but not too in depth- don't make your essay sound incomplete) and come to conclude your big idea. This is where you connect to a much broader context and can help secure the sophistication point.</li> <li>• <b>You are at the end.</b> The reader is at the end. The story is at its end. Make it count. Save an enlightening point for the conclusion while still bringing together the thesis statement you crafted and built on throughout your essay. Leave the reader thinking by the end, and make sure your thesis and essay have convinced them.</li> <li>• <b>If you have no time at the end, write a restatement of your thesis.</b> It's better to conclude redundantly than not at all.</li> </ul>