

Junior AP English Language and Composition

Reading Time: 15 minutes

Suggested Writing Time: 40 minutes

This AP style practice test introduces the format of the AP test you will take in May. You will be asked to consider the genre of literary nonfiction and analyze the literary elements of a cell description in your summer reading, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*.

Each description is an example of nonfiction, but it is your task to identify which description could be characterized as having literary elements. As you read the two descriptions, underline or circle any words, phrases, or sentences that seem "literary."

Then write a one-page essay, *not a five paragraph paper*, that answers one or more of the following prompts:

- compare and contrast literary nonfiction with more conventional nonfiction
- analyze word choice in an excerpt of literary nonfiction
- identify and analyze examples of literary devices in an excerpt of literary nonfiction

Cite your sources as (Source A) or (Source B). If you remember quotes from the reading, you may cite them, but you do not need to do additional research.

Pay special attention to the time limits of the assignment. While you have all summer to read the book, the essay itself should take not more than 40 minutes to complete – the amount of time you will have on the actual testing day.

Source A

Cooper, John A. "Cell | Definition, Types, & Functions." Encyclopædia Britannica, 6 Feb. 2019,

www.britannica.com/science/cell-biology.

Cell Description #1

A cell is enclosed by a plasma membrane, which forms a selective barrier that allows nutrients to enter and waste products to leave. The interior of the cell is organized into many specialized compartments, or organelles, each surrounded by a separate membrane. One major organelle, the nucleus, contains the genetic information necessary for cell growth and reproduction. Each cell

contains only one nucleus, whereas other types of organelles are present in multiple copies in the cellular contents, or cytoplasm. Organelles include mitochondria, which are responsible for the energy transactions necessary for cell survival; lysosomes, which digest unwanted materials within the cell; and the endoplasmic reticulum and the Golgi apparatus, which play important roles in the internal organization of the cell by synthesizing selected molecules and then processing, sorting, and directing them to their proper locations. In addition, plant cells contain chloroplasts, which are responsible for photosynthesis, whereby the energy of sunlight is used to convert molecules of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and water (H₂O) into carbohydrates. Between all these organelles is the space in the cytoplasm called the cytosol. The cytosol contains an organized framework of fibrous molecules that constitute the cytoskeleton, which gives a cell its shape, enables organelles to move within the cell, and provides a mechanism by which the cell itself can move. The cytosol also contains more than 10,000 different kinds of molecules that are involved in cellular biosynthesis, the process of making large biological molecules from small ones.

Source B

Skloot, R. (2020). *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*. SparkNotes.

Cell Description #2

Under the microscope, a cell looks a lot like a fried egg: It has a white (the cytoplasm) that's full of water and proteins to keep it fed, and a yolk (the nucleus) that holds all the genetic information that makes you you. The cytoplasm buzzes like a New York City street. It's crammed full of molecules and vessels endlessly shuttling enzymes and sugars from one part of the cell to another, pumping water, nutrients, and oxygen in and out of the cell. All the while, little cytoplasmic factories work 24/7, cranking out sugars, fats, proteins, and energy to keep the whole thing running and feed the nucleus—the brains of the operation. Inside every nucleus within each cell in your body, there's an identical copy of your entire genome. That genome tells cells when to grow and divide and makes sure they do their jobs, whether that's controlling your heartbeat or helping your brain understand the words on this page.

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Question 2 – Summer Reading

(Suggested time – 40 minutes. This question counts for one-third of the total essay section score)

This AP style practice test introduces the format of the AP test you will take in May. You will be asked to read a passage from your summer reading assignment, Truman Capote's *In Cold Blood*. Based on this reading, **write a well-organized essay in which you characterize Capote's view of Dick Hickock's execution and the death penalty in general.**

Then write a one-page essay, *not a five paragraph paper*. If you cite the reading, cite your source as (Capote). If you remember quotes from the reading, you may cite them, but you do not need to do additional research.

Pay special attention to the time limits of the assignment. While you have all summer to read the book, the essay itself should take not more than 40 minutes to complete – the amount of time you will have on the actual testing day.

Dewey had watched them die, for he had been among the twenty-odd witnesses invited to the ceremony. He had never attended an execution, and when on the midnight past he entered the cold warehouse, the scenery had surprised him: he had anticipated a setting of suitable dignity, not this bleakly lighted cavern cluttered with lumber and other debris. But the gallows itself, with its two pale nooses attached to a crossbeam, was imposing enough; and so, in an unexpected style, was the hangman, who cast a long shadow from his perch on the platform at the top of the wooden instrument's thirteen steps. The hangman, an anonymous, leathery gentleman who had been imported from Missouri for the event, for which he was paid six hundred dollars, was attired in an aged double-breasted pinstriped suit overly commodious for the narrow figure inside it – the coat came nearly to his knees; and on his head he wore a cowboy hat which, when

first bought, had perhaps been bright green, but was now a weathered, sweat-stained oddity.

Also, Dewey found the self-consciously casual conversation of his fellow witnesses, as they stood awaiting the start of what one witness termed "the festivities," disconcerting.

"What I heard was, they was gonna let them draw straws to see who dropped first. Or flip a coin. But Smith says why not do it alphabetically. Guess 'cause S comes after H. Ha!"

"Read in the paper, afternoon paper, what they ordered for their last meal? Ordered the same menu. Shrimp. French fries. Garlic bread. Ice cream and strawberries and whipped cream. Understand Smith didn't touch his much."

"That Hickock's got a sense of humor. They was telling me how, about an hour ago, one

of the guards says to him, 'This must be the longest night of your life.' And Hickock, he laughs and says, 'No. The shortest.'"

"Did you hear about Hickock's eyes? He left them to an eye doctor. Soon as they cut him 'Christ! Is that rain? All the windows down! My new Chevy. Christ!'"

The sudden rain rapped the high warehouse roof. The sound, not unlike the rata-tat-tat of parade drums, heralded Hickock's arrival. Accompanied by six guards and a prayer-murmuring chaplain, he entered the death place handcuffed and wearing an ugly harness of leather straps that bound his arms to his torso. At the foot of the gallows the warden read to him the official order of execution, a two-page document; and as the warden read, Hickock's eyes, enfeebled by half a decade of cell shadows, roamed the little audience until, not seeing what he sought, he asked the nearest guard, in a whisper, if any member of the Clutter family was present. When he was told no, the prisoner seemed disappointed, as though he thought the protocol surrounding this ritual of vengeance was not being properly observed.

As is customary, the warden, having finished his recitation, asked the condemned man whether he had any last statement to make. Hickock nodded. "I just want to say I hold no hard feelings. You people are sending me to a better world than this ever was"; then, as if to

down, this doctor's gonna yank out his eyes and stick them in somebody else's head. Can't say I'd want to be that somebody. I'd feel peculiar with them eyes in my head."

emphasize the point, he shook hands with the four men mainly responsible for his capture and conviction, all of whom had requested permission to attend the executions: K. B. I. Agents Roy Church, Clarence Duntz, Harold Nye, and Dewey himself. "Nice to see you," Hickock said with his most charming smile; it was as if he were greeting guests at his own funeral.

The hangman coughed – impatiently lifted his cowboy hat and settled it again, a gesture somehow reminiscent of a turkey buzzard huffing, then smoothing its neck feathers – and Hickock, nudged by an attendant, mounted the scaffold steps. "The Lord giveth, the Lord taketh away. Blessed is the name of the Lord," the chaplain intoned, as the rain sound accelerated, as the noose was fitted, and as a delicate black mask was tied round the prisoner's eyes. "May the Lord have mercy on your soul." The trapdoor opened, and Hickock hung for all to see a full twenty minutes before the prison doctor at last said, "I pronounce this man dead." A hearse, its blazing headlights beaded with rain, drove into the warehouse, and the body, placed on a litter and shrouded under a blanket, was carried to the hearse and out into the night.

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What Is a Photo Essay?

For those who aren't familiar with the term "photo essay," have no fear. A photo essay, in its simplest form, is a series of pictures that evokes an emotion, presents an idea, or helps tell a story. You've been exposed to photo essays for your entire life—possibly without even knowing it. For example, you may have seen Dorothea Lange's *Migrant Mother* or you might consider your own Instagram or SnapChat stories photo essays.



To better understand Alice Walker's *The Color Purple*, you will create a photo essay on Word, PowerPoint, Google Slides, Prezi, Sway, or any other creative format. Your essay must include a series of pictures that answer the following **Guiding Questions**:

- In what ways do socially constructed ideas of gender roles impact characters' choices and relationships in *The Color Purple*?
- To what extent do socially constructed ideas of gender roles continue to function in our society today?
- How are all humans impacted by rigid ideas of gender?

Your choices of pictures may *not* come from Steven Spielberg's movie version of *The Color Purple*. Your choices of pictures must evoke an emotion and present your ideas about Walker's story. You will be answering the guiding questions through pictures, quotes, and your own words. Limit yourself to just a few sentences per picture, however. Think about how annoying Instagram captions that go on and on and on can be...

Each photo essay needs a minimum of ten pictures and ten quotes from the novel. Choose pictures and quotes that help explain your answers to the guiding questions.

In addition, you need a title slide/page with your name and the title of your photo essay.