

VCE English Unit 3, Outcome 1.2, Reading & Responding: ESSAY TOPICS

Choose ONE of the following for your SAC. Make sure to write the essay topic at the top of your essay.

Please note, despite changing the wording of the topics, you should essentially be able to use all of your same arguments from planning for the original topic.

1. The inhumane treatment of the criminal class is central to Capote's novel.

Discuss

2. Capote is deeply concerned with the divisions in American society.

Discuss

3. Of all the victims in *In Cold Blood*, it is Perry with whom readers are most invited to sympathise.

To what extent do you agree?

4. Capote demonstrates that violent crime is the result of environment and conditioning.

To what extent do you agree?

5. How does Capote manage to sustain suspense and engagement in a narrative whose end is known?

6. Capote succeeded in creating the first non-fiction novel.

Do you agree?

7. The crimes in the novel are not personal; they are a product of unfortunate psychological circumstances in which the Clutters were simply unlucky.

To what extent do you agree?

8. In *In Cold Blood*, the American Dream is shown to be just that – a dream, and not within the means of the most disadvantaged members of society.

Discuss

9. To what extent does Capote seem to suggest that Smith and Hickock deserve to be hanged?
10. In *In Cold Blood*, on whom is the reader invited to extend their compassion, the victims or the killers?