

VCE Unit 3, Outcome 1.2: Reading & Responding – *In Cold Blood*

Overview of week – preparing for the SAC

Note: all homework/coursework due by Wednesday afternoon

This week is mainly planning for your essay, but first, there is one final mini-study to do.

1. Complete final study on ‘the resolution’ (only two questions).
2. Finish any outstanding homework and email to me.
3. Read the Assessment Outline (on the website).
4. Finalise your essay topic and send to me. This is important to do before you complete the final readings.
5. Readings: through the files from Insight: *Characters, Themes, Interpretations* that can be found on the website. Highlight & Annotate.
 - Look for parts that are relevant *to your essay topic* – if in doubt: record anyway.
 - Highlight and annotate everything relevant. If you know that certain characters are not relevant to your essay topic, then you don’t have to read the study on that character – it’s up to you (if it were me though I would read everything).
 - When reading *Themes* make sure to look for the **author’s views, values and concerns** – remember – an essay will fail without them.

Please note: *you do not need to send me pictures of your highlighting and annotating – I trust you’re doing it because if you don’t... well, you’re screwed really. If you do not pass the SAC, then I may ask you to show me evidence that you’ve done it.*

6. Read through and H&A (highlight & annotate) the file “Interpretations”.
 - **Interpretations is very important to read** – because one of the essay criteria asks that you acknowledge (at different points in your essay – once per paragraph is ideal) **that there are other ways to interpret the text other than how you are interpreting it** (so as you read Interpretations – look for alternate viewpoints to your own, and annotate them with a star.
7. Read through the ‘sample essay’ material (found on the website) – follow the ‘how to’ and start to break down your own essay topic, and form a plan (I am not going to change your essay topic much – so this plan will be able to be used in your SAC).
8. This is where you will **start to read back through your notes**, collecting evidence from the handouts of examples from the text that support your opinion on your chosen essay topic.
 - Start a ‘notes’ page and add everything relevant to your essay topic on it.
 - Make sure to record your evidence including **accurately spelled quotes**.

- **TEXTUAL FEATURES!**

For every example from the text you find – make sure you take notes on **the textual features**: this may be language, structure, characterisation, narrative devices, etc - see notes on 'style' or 'language' in your notes and from handouts from last term (I will re-upload some of these files).
Ask yourself these questions:

- > Which textual features or language has been used to present the example from the text I am going to discuss?
- > What other textual features or language features are evident in my example?
- > in short, how is the hand of **Capote** present – what has Capote done to present this information to you (*you must read everything that happens as a piece of writing, not as a piece of reality*).

**** Remember: textual features are a whole criteria – if you ignore them, you will not pass the SAC.**

9. Have a look at the other resources I have uploaded. The 'how to run an average essay into an excellent essay' is definitely worth a read.

10. Wednesday sometime:

Write out a **detailed**, two-sided broad essay plan.

Include a plan for each paragraph that includes:

- a (broad) topic sentence, examples from the text**
- Examples and quotes that support your topic sentence (the more the better – remember – **a good essay will weave lots of shorter quotes in** (e.g. to describe a character or setting) – **so you may have 5-7 quotes per paragraph, even if only 2-3 of them are for key evidence to support your argument.**)
- Textual features connected to your examples in the text and/or your chosen quotes
- List one example of how something you are discussing in your paragraph could be interpreted differently to how you are choosing to interpret it.

**** Note:** you cannot write your *exact* topic sentences or your *exact* contention because I may re-phrase the essay topic in a way that means you will have to change some of the wording.

But you **can** still write out a contention and topic sentences to the essay topic you have – which will probably just mean you need to change a few words to rearrange it when I give you the topic on Thursday morning.

- How many paragraphs? If it were me, I would try to come up with a plan for 4 paragraphs – that way you're covered if the essay topic is changed too much and one of your paragraphs suddenly is not as good (as a different 4th paragraph might be) – but it's up to you. You will only need to write 3 body paragraphs in the essay, although sometimes 4 can help to give a more balanced argument – depending on the essay topic you choose.

- It is also a good idea to form a contention to the topic you have at the moment (even if it has to change a bit when you get the new topic). If it was me, I would write out a sample **introduction** that introduces the text and its publication details, then lists your 3-4 supporting argument and contention.