**Adventures of Huckleberry Finn Big Question Essay**

In class we have been collecting quotes, observations, and questions related to Twain’s satirical targets. You will be using those collections as the basis for creating a guiding question that will then be turned into a powerful thesis statement when you answer that question. The collection sheets may also serve as a useful source for evidence to prove your thesis.

**The assignment:**

Write an essay that is at least 750 words long in which you make a claim related to your chosen satirical target and support the claim. The essay will be graded using the rubric attached to this page. Use the rubric as a guide to what to put in your essay and how to structure it. Your evidence must be in the form of a quotation from the text and it must be cited using in-text citations and a works cited page in MLA style.

The essay is worth 40 points and is due by 11:59 PM on **Wednesday, May 8th**. Your essay must be shared with Mr. Klak using Google Docs. Be sure to give Mr. Klak permission to edit when you share it. Mr. Klak’s email for sharing your document is [jklak@mp.edzone.net](mailto:jklak@mp.edzone.net)

**Late work**

**Essays that are shared Thursday, May 9th or Friday, May 10th will receive a 20% penalty (-8 points). Essays shared after 11:59 PM, May 11th will receive a 50% penalty (-20 points). Essays received after 11:59 PM, May 18th will not receive credit.**

**Some help creating that thesis statement**

What does Twain say about \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ through his satire?

A one sentence answer to this question will be your thesis statement.

**A note on thesis statements: You want your thesis statement to have “complexity”, which means that it is complicated and intricate. Making a declaration about the obvious will lead your reader wondering “So what?” Make a claim that takes some detail to explain and prove. If you are having trouble reaching 750 words you are either not giving enough detail to prove your thesis statement or your thesis statement isn’t complex enough to need more detail.**

**Examples of thesis statements for this essay.**

**(Feel free to borrow, modify, or disregard any of these.)**

Mark Twain’s novel *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* suggests that under the veneer of Southern civility and manners is a society that is rooted in violence, ignorance, and bigotry.

In the novel *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, Mark Twain shows Southern culture to be delusional (meaning they see things that are not there) through his satire of Romanticism.

Twain portrays both the positive and negative aspects of life in small towns along the Mississippi River.

Readers of the novel *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* on first examination will assume that its main character, Huckleberry Finn, is an unreliable narrator. Upon closer examination, one will find that Huck is the only person upon whom the reader can rely for an accurate depiction of the circumstances.

At its heart, Mark Twain’s novel *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* is about people seeing things that are not there which blinds them to realities right in front of them.

Throughout the novel *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, Huck and Jim are on a quest for freedom from society and its rules.

Throughout the novel *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* the story’s main character, Huck, is on a quest to find a family.

Twain shows that the downfall of Southern culture is the result of its corruption by Romanticism through the use of allegory in chapter 13 of *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* where Huck and Jim get trapped on a sinking steam ship*.*

Mark Twain’s *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* is a story in which Jim is literally escaping slavery and Huck is escaping a metaphorical slavery.

In the novel *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn Twain* depicts Southern society as often being benevolent in its intent but deeply flawed in its actions.

Twain’s criticism of religion in *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* is done when Huck and Jim place it in the same arena as superstition, old wives tales, and myth.