

Selection: [The Importance of Being Earnest by Oscar Wilde](#)

Objectives:

- Explain the function of setting in a narrative (Skill category 2: 2.B)
- Describe the relationship between a character and setting (Skill category 2.C)
- Develop textually substantiated arguments about interpretations of part or all of a text (Skill category 7)



Task:

1. Please read *The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde.
2. Then, complete the following task:

Many plays and novels use contrasting places (for example, two countries, two cities or towns, two houses, or the land and the sea) to represent opposing forces or ideas that are central to the meaning of the work. *The Importance of Being Earnest* contrasts two such places. In a well-written essay, analyze how the places differ and what their contrast contributes to an interpretation of the work as a whole. Do not merely summarize plot.

Specific Written Response Instructions:

- Use MLA documentation style
- Responses should be in essay format, reaching 700-900 words in length.
- Although direct quotations from the work are not required, specific references to major plot points, key characterization, elements of setting, etc. are necessary for a thorough response.
- A response that does not address the “interpretation of the work as a whole” (aka THEME) will not receive a qualifying score.

Assessment:

This essay will be scored using the AP Literature and Composition Literary Argumentation Rubric as a baseline assessment for our course. You can find the rubric [here](#) (p. 8-10).

Due Date:

The essay response will be due to turnitin.com by the third week of school. It is expected that the play has been read by the first day of school so that we can begin our instruction on the piece.

Connections:

This essay type is an integral part of the AP Literature and Composition test in the Spring. Assessing current knowledge and skills in regard to literary analysis and argumentation is an essential component of designing the curricular needs of the year.

Note:

This essay is an individual assessment and should NOT be completed or shared with other students. Plagiarism/academic dishonesty on this assignment will result in a zero and potential administrative action.

Questions?: Please email Mrs. Rygiel at rygiel.kimberly@cusd80.com with any questions not answered in this assignment.