

Final Exam: 2017-2018

English 4 / Mr. Neff

Read me first:

- This exam consists of **70** mixed format objective questions worth one point each (including reading passages).
- For multiple choice questions, **there is only one best answer unless the question directs you to “choose all that apply.”**
- At the end of the exam, you'll write **one essay** from a choice of several options. This essay is worth 30% of your exam grade.
- Good luck and show what you know!

Reading Passages

Be prepared to show your reading comprehension skills with a variety of different reading passages. The passages are interspersed throughout the test, and they include:

- An L.A. Times review on Gwyneth Paltrow's performance in the film version of *Proof*
- An informative article on female child soldiers
- Excerpts from Jon Krakauer's *Into the Wild*

David Auburn's *Proof*

- Review characters: Catherine, Claire, Hal, and Robert

Sample questions:

- Finds a notebook in Hal's backpack and calls the police
- The play opens with Catherine speaking to him on the eve of his funeral
- Says, "If I wanted to look for information—secrets, complex...messages—I could find them all around me. In the air. In a pile of fallen leaves some neighbor raked together. In box scores in the paper, written in the steam coming up off a cup of coffee. The whole world was talking to me."
- What does Catherine try to destroy at the end of Act 2, Scene 2? (from Act 2 Scene 2)
- Why is Catherine adamant that Robert could not have written the proof? (from Act 2 Scene 2)

Ishmael Beah's *A Long Way Gone*

Sample questions:

- Sierra Leone's civil war took place during which of the following years?
- The RUF were...
- A "blood diamond" is...
- While Ishmael is on his own and struggling to survive in the forest, he's reminded of one of his grandmother's folktales about...
- Laura Simms is...
- What job does Ishmael end up taking on at the rehabilitation center?

Rhetoric: The Rhetorical Triangle

Know definitions of the following basic terms associated with Aristotle's rhetoric:

Rhetoric / speaker / audience / persona / subject / purpose / genre / context

Rhetoric: The three persuasive appeals

Know definitions of logos, ethos, pathos, and be able to identify their use in examples.

Sample questions:

- This appeal relies on the credibility, trustworthiness, or likeability of the speaker (or testimonial of someone else) to influence the audience.
- A Superbowl ad for Nationwide Insurance that targets its audience by showing "[a] tousle-haired tyke talking about all the life experiences he'll never get to experience because he's dead."

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- *Blackfish* shows a Seaworld tour guide claiming that orcas at Seaworld live about 25 to 35 years; the film then directly counters this by claiming that they live closer to a human life span.

Sample question:

Which statement primarily appeals to **ethos** to support the position that **the government should provide more funding for arts education?**

- a. Consider celebrities like Justin Timberlake and Taylor Swift, who have donated thousands of dollars to the arts and said in interviews that funding for the arts needs to be a priority.
- b. One study found that students who participate in the arts are four times more likely to be recognized for academic achievement.
- c. If we want more of our young people to become creative geniuses instead of metaphorical cogs, we must invest in arts education that begins at an early age.

Rhetoric: schemes & tropes

Know definitions and identify examples of the following schemes and tropes:

anaphora / antithesis / epistrophe / litotes / metaphor

- “We should be clear. **It is not wrong** to express concern about the scale of people coming into the country.”
- “[W]e here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain, that this nation under God shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of **the people**, by **the people**, for **the people** shall not perish from the earth.”

Essays

- You will be writing ONE essay. Your response is worth 30 points. Write your essay # at the top of your page.
- In writing your chosen essay, follow any directions and guidance provided in that specific prompt as far as writing style and length are concerned, and consult the rubric at the end of this exam. Generally speaking, you should aim for 1 to 1 and ½ pages of content.

Prompt #1: A Long Way Gone

In her TEDTalk, “The Danger of a Single Story,” author Chimamanda Adichie says the following:

“Of course, Africa is a continent full of catastrophes: There are immense ones, such as the horrific rapes in Congo and depressing ones, such as the fact that 5,000 people apply for one job vacancy in Nigeria. But there are other stories that are not about catastrophe, and it is very important, it is just as important, to talk about them.”

Explain how Ishmael Beah’s *A Long Way Gone*, despite its violent content, delivers on Adichie’s call to tell “stories [about Africa] that are not about catastrophe.” Support your response by providing specific text evidence, examples, and explanation.

Prompt #2: Rhetorical Analysis of Film

Blackfish is a documentary that attempts to expose the controversy over keeping killer whales in captivity. Evaluate the filmmaker’s use of rhetorical techniques to influence the audience and support this purpose. Is the film effective in this aim or not? Cite specific examples from the film to support your evaluation.

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Prompt #3: Rhetorical Analysis of Text

Read and analyze an email written by an American soldier stationed in Iraq to his family and friends back home. Then write a response that analyzes and explains how the soldier uses language and rhetoric (such as rhetorical devices, rhetorical appeals, and tone) to influence his audience. Cite specific examples from the text to support your analysis.

Prompt #4: Motivational rhetoric

Write a motivational speech or letter addressed to next year's seniors. Your aim is to convince them to overcome their impending senioritis and make the most of their senior year.

Within your speech or letter, you must use at least two of the persuasive appeals (logos, ethos, and pathos) and at least two other schemes and/or tropes. Your writing will be evaluated on the accuracy and effectiveness of your use of these persuasive techniques in achieving your purpose.

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Rubric: Prompts #1, 2, & 3 (Analysis)

A "4" response (Advanced) = 30 points

- Offers a focused, accurate, and insightful response to the prompt/question
- Supports claims with a variety of specific, relevant, and concrete evidence, including direct quotes, paraphrased evidence, or other specific text references and examples
- Connects evidence to claims with insightful, perceptive, and fully explained analysis that's free of plot summary
- Contains no or minimal grammatical errors that do not detract from written voice.

A "3" response (Proficient) = 24 points

- Offers a clear, accurate response to the prompt/question
- Supports claims with mostly specific, relevant evidence, some of which may be repetitious
- Connects evidence to claims with adequately explained analysis that is mostly free of plot summary
- May contain minor grammatical errors.

A "2" response (Developing) = 18 points

- Offers an accurate response to the prompt/question
 - Flawed in ONE of the following:
 - Either lacks specific, relevant evidence: evidence is vague or repetitious
 - Or lacks adequately explained analysis: analysis is superficial or unsupported
 - May contain grammatical errors that detract from written voice.
- A "1" response (Limited) = 1-10 points**
- Offers an incomplete, limited, or inaccurate response to the prompt/question
 - Lacks specific, relevant evidence: evidence is vague or repetitious
 - Lacks adequately explained analysis: analysis is superficial or unsupported
 - May contain grammatical errors that detract from written voice.

Rubric: Prompt #4 (Creative)

A "4" response (Advanced) = 30 points

- Writer provides a clear, focused response to the prompt and
- Supports purpose by effectively using a variety of persuasive techniques, schemes, tropes
- Writer's response contains an engaging opening and a thoughtful closing.
- Response contains no or minimal grammatical errors that do not detract from written voice.

A "3" response (Proficient) = 24 points

- Writer provides a clear accurate response to the prompt and
- Supports purpose by using a variety of persuasive techniques, schemes, tropes, most of which are effective
- Writer's response contains an adequate opening and closing.
- Response may contain minor grammatical errors.

A "2" response (Developing) = 18 points

- Offers an accurate response to the prompt
- Flawed or underdeveloped in ONE aspect of content
- Response may contain grammatical errors that detract from written voice.

A "1" response (Limited) = 1-10 points

- Response to prompt may be off-topic or lack focus
- Flawed or underdeveloped in TWO aspects of content
- Response may contain significant grammatical errors.