

In-Class Essay Guidelines

- **Have Faith in Your Intelligence.**
 - Use your notes, the novel, the questions I gave you, and your prior experience writing an essay. Focus, do not distract others, and you will do well.
- **Do Not Panic.**
 - Anyone who has done nothing more than to sit in class and listen knows at least some of the material.
- **Budget Your Time.**
 - Keep an eye on the clock. Do not spend all 50 minutes writing your introduction. Divide your time among paragraphs and go back and add sentences in when you finish.
- **Answer the Major Question.**
 - Your essay should have a thesis statement, which is a statement that clearly states the main idea of your writing and outlines your most salient (important) points.
- **Use a General Organizing Principle.**
 - Block Format, Point to Point, etc. Pick a format and stick to it. Do not forget an introduction and conclusion.
- **Proofread.**
 - If you finish early, proofread the test to check facts, spelling, punctuation, and grammar.