

Anthem Essay Contest

For 8th, 9th and 10th Graders
Entry Deadline: March 20, 2010
Essay must be between 600 and 1,200 words in length.

Anthem—Topics

Select ONE of the following three topics:

1. Why do you think the Council of Vocations assigns Equality the job of Street Sweeper? Is it due to error, incompetence or a more sinister motivation? Explain.
2. The old locks and lack of guards in the Palace of Corrective Detention indicate that prisoners never try to escape. Why do you think they do not? Explain.
3. In a single, unified essay, explain the meaning and wider significance of each of the following quotes in the story:
 - a. "To be free, a man must be free of his brothers." (Ch. 12)
 - b. "It is my mind which thinks, and the judgment of my mind is the only searchlight that can find the truth." (Ch. 11)
 - c. "And we thought that we could trust this being who looked upon us from the stream, and that we had nothing to fear with this being." (Ch. 8)

To read a complete list of rules and guidelines, and to find out how to submit your students' essays, please visit our Web site at www.aynrandeducation.com.



The Fountainhead Essay Contest

For 11th and 12th Graders
Entry Deadline: April 26, 2010
Essay must be between 800 and 1,600 words in length.

The Fountainhead—Topics

Select ONE of the following three topics:

1. Howard Roark refuses a major contract when he most needs it, claiming that his action was "the most selfish thing you've ever seen a man do." Why does he call his action "selfish"? And why do other people call it "selfless"?
2. Gail Wynand is a brilliant individual who rose out of the slums by means of his own talent and effort. But despite his reverence for man's noblest achievements, his newspaper, *The Banner*, presents the most lurid and loathsome values. Why does Wynand pander in this manner? And why doesn't Howard Roark?
3. Choose the scene in *The Fountainhead* that is most meaningful to you. Analyze that scene in terms of the wider themes in the book.

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