

**Dead Poets Society Essay:
The Individual and Society
100 points**

Prompt: What lessons about life does *Dead Poets Society* offer modern viewers (you)? Choose a theme, and use the film as primary support as well as the writings of Longfellow, Emerson, Thoreau, and/or Whitman as secondary support (textbook).

Definition of Argument Writing

In a persuasive writing a writer takes a position FOR or AGAINST an issue and writes to convince the reader to agree or do something. It comes in a variety of forms: essays, speeches, letters and advertisements. The purpose of the writing is to convince your reader to agree with your opinion. Persuasive essays usually follow a pattern. You state your opinion, support it, address opposing viewpoints and in the closing restate your opinion. (Adapted from *Listen to This: Developing an Ear for Expository*. Marcia S. Freeman. 2003)

Rubric for Grading:

- Clearly takes a position
- Maintains focus across essay
- Examines different perspectives of the issue (counter-argument & rebuttal)
- Provides fully developed ideas
- Shows clear focus throughout writing
- Demonstrates clear and logical organization
- Includes sophisticated transitions
- Has a well-developed and effective introduction and conclusion
- Shows sentence variety, adequate grasp of mechanics and grammar, and correct MLA Works Cited page and in-text citations

Additional Areas of Focus:

- Correct MLA heading
- Entire paper double spaced – no extra spacing between paragraphs
- Correct page numbers – Last Name # in upper right corner
- Single space after end marks
- Times New Roman 12 point font
- Creative & original title – NO bolding, underlining, italicizing, quoting, etc...
- 6-8 sentence paragraphs
- Correctly follows five paragraph essay format (in notebook)

Works Cited Entries:

Last Name Author, First Name Author. Title of Piece from Text. Ed. Diane Cappillo, et. al. *Literature: Timeless Voices, Timeless Themes*. Upper Saddle River: Prentice Hall, 2002. Page Numbers. Print.

Dead Poets Society. Dir. Peter Weir. Touchstone Pictures, 1989. Film.

