

OAKBROOK 2025 SUMMER READING

Rising Sophomores (10th) in English II (Honors and CP)

Read the play *A Raisin in the Sun* and respond to the prompt in a well-written essay in MLA format, due on Friday, August 15. Please review the attached essay guidelines.

CP Students: You should include at least 2 thorough body paragraphs in your essay.
Honors Students: You should include at least 3 thorough body paragraphs in your essay.

Purchase your own copy of the play so that you can annotate* in the book as you read. **Do not consult secondary sources, websites, or AI programs. Students who plagiarize on this assignment will receive a grade of zero with no possibility of revision.** See the attached guidelines and definition of plagiarism. **Do all your writing and editing on the same Google doc so I can see your editing history.**

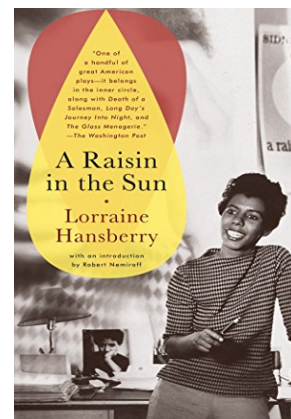
English II CP and Honors: *A Raisin in the Sun*, by Lorraine Hansberry
Vintage; Reprint, Reissue edition (November 29, 2004)
ISBN: 0679755330

Make sure you read and use this version.

Lorraine Hansberry's play *A Raisin in the Sun* explores themes of race, gender, family, and the American Dream. Brainstorm and write an essay analyzing the following prompt:

PROMPT: In *A Raisin in the Sun*, the Younger family faces racism and economic hardship from the outside world, as well as disagreements within the family about values, success, and responsibilities. Choose two characters from different generations (e.g., Mama and Walter, or Walter and Beneatha) and analyze their conflicting perspectives. What do these generational differences reveal about racism, family, identity, or change?

***Annotation:** In writing, comment on the significance of passages in the text while you read. Write notes in the margins of the book about the characters, symbolisms, theme, tone, or any other aspects of the text you find significant.



MS. AUTENZIO'S 10 GUIDELINES FOR WRITING YOUR ESSAY

- 1. Have a thesis sentence that clearly states the idea/theme(s) discussed in your paper.**
Remember, your thesis must be **specific**! Do not simply restate the topic.

Sample topic: How does the Beast change in *Beauty and the Beast*?

AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT NOT TO DO:

In *Beauty and the Beast*, the Beast changes a great deal.
(Change is assumed in the topic—be specific!)

AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT YOU SHOULD DO:

In *Beauty and the Beast*, love is redemptive, changing the Beast into a handsome prince; more importantly, the redeeming power of the Beast's love for Beauty transforms him into a kind and unselfish person, one who is worthy of Beauty.

UNDERLINE YOUR THESIS SENTENCE.

- 2. Begin paragraphs with specific topic sentences that refer back to ideas in your thesis.**
Topic sentences should not include examples or quotations.

AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT NOT TO DO:

In *Beauty and the Beast*, the Beast releases Beauty so she can help her father, even though it means he will remain a lonely beast.
(This is an example, not a main idea.)

AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT YOU SHOULD DO:

In *Beauty and the Beast*, the Beast reveals how much he has changed when he makes unselfish choices out of love for Beauty.
(This is the main idea of your paragraph. Now use examples such as the one above to support it.)

UNDERLINE TOPIC SENTENCES.

- 3. Remember, incorporate direct quotations within your sentences. Do not let them “float” in your essay.**

AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT NOT TO DO:

William Cullen Bryant explores death in his poem “Thanatopsis.” “The last bitter hour.” This quotation refers to the death we must all face.

AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT YOU SHOULD DO:

In the poem “Thanatopsis,” William Cullen Bryant explores the “last bitter hour” (9) of death which comes to all people.

- 4. When using direct quotations, cite the author and page number in parentheses after the quotation.**

EXAMPLE: Because Jody does not understand Janie, Janie's life with him becomes monotonous and unfulfilling. She begins to feel like “a rut in the road” (Hurst 72); Janie has no hope for the future.

5. Remember to italicize long works of literature, such as novels, dramas, and epic poems. Short stories and poems are placed within quotation marks.
6. Your essay must have an introduction, at least three body paragraphs, and a conclusion.
7. Do not use contractions.
8. Do not use first or second person (I, we, you, us etc.).
9. Use the MLA (Modern Language Association) format that you learned in middle school. Consult the 8th edition of the MLA handbook or this helpful link to information on MLA formatting and style:
<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/24/>
10. Include an MLA Works Cited page.

Summing Up Plagiarism

You have plagiarized if...

- you took notes that did not distinguish summary and paraphrase from quotation and then you presented wording from the notes as if it were your own.
- while browsing the Web, you copied text and pasted it into your paper without quotation marks or without citing the source.
- you repeated or paraphrased someone's wording without acknowledgement.
you took someone's unique or particularly appropriate phrase without acknowledgement.
- you paraphrased someone's argument or presented someone's line of thought without acknowledgement.
- you bought or otherwise acquired a research paper and handed in part or all of it as your own.
- you used an AI site such as Chat GPT to generate any part of the essay.
you ran your essay through a grammar program that created a paraphrase and the diction and syntax are no longer your own.

Prevent plagiarism by...

- making a list of the writers and viewpoints you discovered in your research and using this list to double-check the presentation of material in your paper.
- keeping the following three categories distinct in your notes: your ideas, your summaries of others' material, and exact wording
- identifying the sources of all material you borrow—exact wording, paraphrases, ideas, arguments, and facts.
- checking with your instructor when you are uncertain about your use of sources.

~ from the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 7th edition