

Essay Prompts—Critical Thinking and Research Unit

Directions: Create an outline for TWO of the essay prompts below. You WILL be able to use your outline during the in-class timed write. You will not know which prompt you will have to write about until the day of the essay.

Your essay must include three body paragraphs in meat-con form. For the timed essay in class, your introduction and conclusion may be as short as four sentences each. For your final revised paper, your introduction must be revised to 8 sentences, using one of the introduction types we will discuss after break.

1) What are three errors in thinking that cause the most serious problems for people? Write an essay including three body paragraphs (in meat-con form), one for each error in thinking you find significant, and support your argument with specific examples from the “Six Pack of Problems” article, from your own research, and from the skeptical presentations you heard in class.

Make sure your introduction ends with a thesis statement that addresses the answer to this prompt question in a single sentence. (*For example: Three different errors in think cause serious problems for human beings.*)

Key Word(s): error in thinking

2) Identify three possible reasons why teaching evolutionary theory continues to be controversial in some schools despite the fact that mainstream scientists have accepted evolutionary theory for more than half a century? Write an essay including three body paragraphs (in meat-con form), each explaining one REASON you believe America continues to wrestle with this issue. Use specific examples from *Inherit the Wind*, from class discussion, and from the articles provided in class.

Key Word(s): reason

3) The writers of *Inherit the Wind* wanted to use the Scopes Trial to bring attention to a commonly misunderstood violation of civil liberty, but to do so, they distorted real events and mischaracterized real people to make their argument. Was this distortion justified under the circumstances? Did it help their cause, or did it make things worse for the American people in the long run? Write an essay stating your opinion about this matter. You may express an opinion on either side of the argument, or you may take a stand somewhere in the middle of the

argument, but provide three clear reasons for your opinion. Write an essay including three body paragraphs (in meat-con form), each explaining one reason for your opinion.

Key Word(s): reason