

## *Lord of the Flies* In Class Essay Prompts

Choose one of the essay prompts (questions) below that interests you. Find a question that you feel passionate about answering. Essays must be a minimum of three paragraphs. Each essay should consist of an introduction paragraph, a body paragraph with one quotation example with your commentary and one concrete detail with your commentary and a conclusion paragraph.

**1. How can you create a society that works?** The boys in William Golding's *Lord of the Flies* were possibly too young to create a society structure that worked for everyone. But could the boys have created a better society? How did their society fall apart? Could their society have been fixed?

Write an essay that discusses what crucial errors the boys made during their stay on the island. What could they have done differently to make the island a better society that worked for the majority of the individuals?

**2. Who made the best leader?** During pre-election campaigns, Presidential candidates can say absolutely anything about their opponents and their own qualities as leaders, the policies they will champion, and the direction they will lead the nation if they are elected. However, citizens can reach the most reliable evaluation of their Presidential potentials through scrutinizing the established records of their leadership up until now. In *Lord of the Flies*, if Jack and Ralph's tribes were countries and they the nations' leaders, judging by **their** records, which boy would make the best national leader?

Write an essay that discusses whether Jack or Ralph would make the best national leader in terms of personal freedoms, environmental policy, and labor/industry. Be sure to base your judgment on their established records (what they have actually DONE in the novel) and not what they say they will do.

**3. Did Ralph make a good chief?** The boys initially choose Ralph for their chief/leader in William Golding's *Lord of the Flies*, a position he still claims even in the end when all the remaining boys nearly successfully hunt him down to put his head on a stick. Considering the state of affairs at the end of his term as chief, how did Ralph measure up to the job?

Write an essay that evaluates Ralph's performance as chief of the boy's island society. Be sure to include specific details relevant to **Ralph's performance**.

**4. Is human nature good or essentially evil?** In the novel the *Lord of the Flies* author William Golding constantly has the reader questioning the true nature of humans-whether it is good or bad.

Write an essay that discusses the idea that humans are essentially *good* **or** that humans are essentially *bad*. Choose **one side** and convince your audience (me) with **two** detailed examples from the text and **two** detailed examples from the last 50 years in history that humans are essentially *good* **or** that humans are essentially *bad*

**5. What are some of the lessons about human nature that Lord of the Flies offers?** Maybe true "world peace" is a simple minded dream of beauty pageant bubble-heads, but does that mean that people should stop trying altogether? Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. had a dream. Considering the tendencies of human nature, should MLK have abandoned his dream? William Golding did not write *Lord of the Flies* to make the reader feel defeated but to empower the reader through a fuller understanding of "human nature."

Write an essay that discusses what lessons/insights *Lord of the Flies* offers that people today could put to use.

# ***Lord of the Flies* Pre-Writing Assignment**

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**I am going to answer this prompt (write down the number of the prompt):**

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**Task 1:** Choose one essay prompt above that interests you. If you were talking with a good friend about this question, what would you tell them? Write an entry below and pretend you are in the middle of this conversation with a friend. You may write this response in a journal-style format. You do not need to worry about grammar, structure, or support. You should just answer the question as if you were talking to a good friend about this issue. Write your conversation below. Be sure to communicate your perspective to your friend with a complete explanation.

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**Task 2:** Read back over your response above. What is the main idea that you would like to prove? If you had to boil it down to one statement, what would that statement be?

**My basic argument is that ...**

**I want to prove that ....**