

“The Proverbs of Hell” Essay

Your job:

Take one of the aphorisms Blake uses to construct his “Proverbs if Hell” and prove or disproves its value by putting the theory into action.

What I am looking for:

300-500 word essay about ONE of the proverbs. You may mention other proverbs for support, but the essay must be driven by only one idea.

I want you to clearly state what you believe to be Blake’s intended message.

I want you to test that theory using either a real-life example or one from another work (book, film, song, poem).

I want you to show the proverb. What does the aphorism look like when put into action. For example, if I am writing about “Exuberance is Beauty,” I need to show my reader what exuberance and beauty look like to me. I imagine they look differently to each person. As I writer, I need to share my vision.

A good (or maybe even great) first sentence. Please try to avoid starting your essay with, “Blake wrote that “The fox condemns the trap, not himself.” What he meant is....

A conclusion that shows me your judgment regarding whether this proverb is one we should follow.

This is due Wednesday the 5th of February. Even if your class doesn’t meet that day. Turning this in early is not a bad idea.