

Final Exam Study Guide

College Prep Writing

Final Exam Dates: Thursday, January 19 ▪ Friday, January 20, 2012

Objective Number of Questions	Sample Question
Revise vague pronouns that create logic problems 2 questions	The best nouns to use to replace “their” in line 42 is (a) Petrocelli and O’Brien (b) James and Osvaldo (c) Steve and Bobo (d) James and Steve
Select the most logical place to add a sentence in a paragraph. 2 questions	The best placement for this sentence would be: <i>Since Steve Harmon used a journal to record his memories, readers who carefully read his thought processes will come to see that Steve was guilty.</i> (a) At the end of the last sentence in the first paragraph (b) At the beginning of the first paragraph (c) At the beginning of the last paragraph (d) At the end of the last sentence in the fifth paragraph
Identify the main idea in a paragraph. 3 questions	The main idea in the 2 nd paragraph of the essay is (a) Steve’s past involvement Osvaldo and James King (b) Steve’s unwillingness to commit with the crime (c) Steve’s desire to be tough (d) Osvaldo’s affiliation with the Diablos
Locate details in a paragraph 3 questions	All of the following are details in the 4th paragraph except: (a) Steve in denial (b) Steve trying to forget about the crime (c) Steve walking down the street (d) Steve having second thoughts about the crime
Use transitional words and phrases to convey logical relationships between ideas 2 questions	The paragraph that does not use any transitions is: (a) paragraph 1 (b) paragraph 2 (c) paragraph 3 (d) paragraph 4
Identify the main components in an introduction : A C T S 4 questions	See sample essays
Identify the main components in a conclusion STAC 4 questions	See sample essays
Identify a counterargument and purpose for the counterargument 2 questions	See sample essays
Identify a thesis statement and the purpose of a thesis statement 2 questions	See sample essays

Steve Harmon's Guilt Sample essay

1 Anyone can imagine and write beautifully about their experiences, but when
 people write, are the experiences that are written down real, or are they just experiences
 that are a concoction of the mind? Writers have tremendous talents – to reveal, to report,
 to claim, and even to fabricate information in the form of lies. The book "*Monster*" by
 5 Walter Dean Myers, is about teenager Steve Harmon who has a gift for screenplay
 writing. Steve lives in Harlem, New York and is on trial for allegedly being the lookout in
 a serious crime that involved robbery and murder. In this story, he tried to pacify himself
 by denying (in his mind and to the jury) his part in the murder. Moreover, to detach
 himself from the crime, Steve writes in a journal. Steve Harmon is clearly guilty because
 10 throughout the story, Steve reveals gaps in his thinking and also mentions that he
 wanted to tough, just like Osvaldo and James King.

In the beginning, Osvaldo, an important witness in prosecuting Steve, identifies
 both King and Steve at the beginning of his testimony and indicates how Steve wanted
 to be tough. Steve stated that his reason for joining the crime was because of fear. This
 15 shows that not only is Steve involved with these "scary" guys, he *is* one of them. Proof
 for this is found in Steve's 4th journal entry on July 9th: "All the times I had looked at him
 [King] and wanted to be tough like him" (Myers, 96). This evidence shows that Steve
 aspires to be a tough criminal like King and Osvaldo. Furthermore, this journal entry
 implicates Steve even further in the crime of killing Mr. Nesbitt. If Steve wanted to be
 20 "tough" like King, perhaps he was involved in the crime in order to prove himself to his
 peers.

Obviously, there were many gaps in Steve's story; nevertheless, Steve can also
 be viewed as innocent in the eyes of the law because he really didn't know Bobo Evans.
 For example, in the novel, when O'Brien is cross-examining Bobo, she asks him, "Did you
 25 talk to Steve Harmon" Bobo responds by saying, "No." Furthermore, O'Brien asks him
 "But you had not spoken to Mr. Harmon prior to the stickup?" Bobo again responds by
 saying "Naw" (Myers, 197). This evidence shows that Steve and Bobo never saw each
 other. The evidence also shows that Steve and Bobo had never heard of each other.
 Clearly, Steve Harmon did not know Bobo Evans, so this part of the prosecution worked
 in his favor.

30 Another gap in Steve's thinking occurs when he refers to his mind. In a journal
 entry that is dated Friday, July 10th, Steve says that the moment the murder was
 committed he was "walking down the street, trying to make his mind a blank screen."
 (Myers 128). The idea that his mind is a blank screen implies that he may have been
 involved and was trying not to remember his participation in the crime. It's almost as if
 35 Steve is denial as he refers to his mind as a blank screen. The idea of denial clearly
 indicates that Steve may have wanted to forget about the crime.

James and Osvaldo were clearly Steve's friends and there is no doubt then that
 Steve fabricated information to the judge and lawyers- even when he told his story by
 writing it down in the form of a journal entry. He also tried to be tough like them and even
 40 revealed that he admired their toughness. False claims, lies, and deceit can all be part of
 a good story that anyone can believe. Steve tried to deny to himself, and to his readers,
 that he was at the scene of the crime, referring to his mind as a blank screen. In the
 story, Steve continually tried to convince himself of his innocence, and seemed to have
 faith that if he told his version of the truth, that he would be found innocent. Even though
 45 the jury found Steve Harmon innocent, the reader should see that he is guilty because of
 the facts that are revealed by his guilty conscious.