

Unit 4 Essential Question Essay

AP Lang | January 2018 - Due to Turnitin.com 1/31/18 by 11:59pm

PROMPT: Discuss the purpose and value of processing trauma, even when it is not our own. Please construct a clear thesis and support it with at least 2-3 reasons that are proved with specific evidence (grounds). You must incorporate text evidence from *Beloved* and at least one other text (including podcasts). Minimum word count 500.

A few hopefully helpful notes to assist you in avoiding possible pitfalls:

- Keep in mind that the prompt implicitly suggests that understanding others' trauma is important. You should not just repeat that fact, but rather attempt to go further in explaining why that understanding is essential and what the outcomes of that understanding might be, personally and/or societally.
- Also keep in mind that the discussion is about trauma and dealing with difficult texts *in general*. Yes we are reading *Beloved* right now, but keep in mind that we are also engaging with those other texts we discussed in class, so your paper doesn't necessarily have to be entirely about race issues, although it might be if you choose to take it in that direction. That said, I would be surprised if you didn't discuss race at least during some parts of your response.
- You can incorporate your own personal example/story of trauma *if you want*, as long as you think it is relevant, but you by no means have to do so.
- If you are having a hard time thinking of varied reasons for why it is important to process through trauma, it may be helpful for you to think about the consequences of *not* dealing with trauma. How might avoiding working through/not dealing with something traumatic negatively affect a person/society?

Possible Outline Template

- Intro with Thesis Statement (Position): Take a clear position on the issue.
 - Reason 1:
 - Evidence:
 - Explanation:
 - Reason 2:
 - Evidence:
 - Explanation:
 - Reason 3:
 - Evidence:
 - Explanation:
- Conclusion