

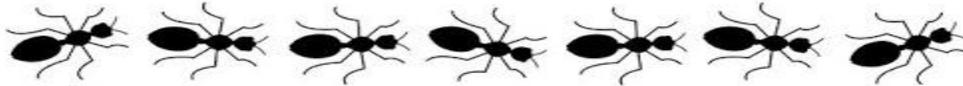
OAKBROOK SUMMER READING 2020
Rising Freshmen (9th) in English I CP or Honors



“Leiningen Versus the Ants” is a classic adventure story by Carl Stephenson. **The text is included as a pdf.**

Read the short story and respond to the prompt in a well-written essay in MLA format, due on the first day of class. Do not consult secondary sources or websites. See the attached guidelines and definition of plagiarism.

(In the advent of online instruction to start the school year, directions for submission of summer work will be communicated to students and parents.)



“Leiningen Versus the Ants” by Carl Stephenson

In most short stories, the protagonist experiences a conflict, or a struggle of some kind. The nature of Leiningen’s external conflict is clear from the title: “Leiningen Versus the Ants.” However, you’ll find that Leiningen must also wage a mental battle if he wants to defeat the ants.

If Leiningen’s victory were assured from the start, the story would not hold our interest. Suspense is aroused because the outcome is uncertain. The ants present a real challenge, and we do not know if Leiningen will be able to overcome them.

Discuss Leiningen and the ants as adversaries. What qualities does Leiningen bring to the conflict? What qualities do the ants bring to the conflict? What determines the winner? Remember to include evidence from the text to support your ideas.

Pre-writing suggestions: Select key details and characteristics you wish to use in your essay. Organize quotations to use as evidence. Create an outline for your essay—what will each paragraph be about?



MS. AUTENZIO'S 10 GUIDELINES FOR WRITING YOUR ESSAY

- 1. Have a thesis sentence that clearly states the idea/theme(s) discussed in your paper.** Remember, your thesis must be **specific!** Do not simply restate the topic.

Sample topic: How does the Beast change in *Beauty and the Beast*?

AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT NOT TO DO:

In *Beauty and the Beast*, the Beast changes a great deal.
(Change is assumed in the topic—be specific!)

AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT YOU SHOULD DO:

In *Beauty and the Beast*, Beauty's love redeems the Beast, changing him into a handsome prince; more importantly, the power of the Beast's love for Beauty transforms him into a kind and unselfish person, one who is worthy of Beauty.

UNDERLINE YOUR THESIS SENTENCE.

- 2. Begin paragraphs with specific topic sentences that refer back to ideas in your thesis.**

Topic sentences should not include examples or quotations.

AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT NOT TO DO:

In *Beauty and the Beast*, the Beast releases Beauty so she can help her father, even though it means he will remain a lonely beast.
(This is an example, not a main idea.)

AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT YOU SHOULD DO:

In *Beauty and the Beast*, the Beast reveals how much he has changed when he makes unselfish choices out of love for Beauty.
(This is the main idea of your paragraph. Now use examples such as the one above to support it.)

UNDERLINE TOPIC SENTENCES.

- 3. Remember, incorporate direct quotations within your sentences. Do not let them "float" in your essay.**

AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT NOT TO DO:

William Cullen Bryant explores death in his poem "Thanatopsis." "The last bitter hour." This quotation refers to the death we must all face.

AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT YOU SHOULD DO:

In the poem "Thanatopsis," William Cullen Bryant explores the "last bitter hour" (9) of death which comes to all people.

4. **When using direct quotations, cite the author and page number in parentheses after the quotation.**

EXAMPLE: Because Jody does not understand Janie, her life with him becomes monotonous and unfulfilling. She begins to feel like “a rut in the road” (Hurston 72); Janie has no hope for change or growth in her future.

5. **Remember to italicize long works of literature, such as novels, dramas, and epic poems. Short stories and poems are placed within quotation marks.**
6. **Your essay must have an introduction, at least three body paragraphs, and a conclusion.**
7. **Do not use contractions.**
8. **Do not use first or second person (I, we, you, us etc.).**
9. **Use the MLA (Modern Language Association) format that you learned in middle school. Consult the 8th edition of the MLA handbook or this helpful link to information on MLA formatting and style:
<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/24/>**
10. **Include an MLA Works Cited page.**



Summing Up Plagiarism

You have plagiarized if...

- you took notes that did not distinguish summary and paraphrase from quotation and then you presented wording from the notes as if it were your own.
- while browsing the Web, you copied text and pasted it into your paper without quotation marks or without citing the source.
- you repeated or paraphrased someone's wording without acknowledgement.
- you took someone's unique or particularly appropriate phrase without acknowledgement.
- you paraphrased someone's argument or presented someone's line of thought without acknowledgement.
- you bought or otherwise acquired a research paper and handed in part or all of it as your own.

Prevent plagiarism by...

- making a list of the writers and viewpoints you discovered in your research and using this list to double-check the presentation of material in your paper.
- keeping the following three categories distinct in your notes: your ideas, your summaries of others' material, and exact wording you copy.
- identifying the sources of all material you borrow—exact wording, paraphrases, ideas, arguments, and facts.
- checking with your instructor when you are uncertain about your use of sources.

~ from the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 7th edition