**Inferno Essay**

**DUE Wednesday, September 24**

For this paper, you will choose **ONE** of the following topics. You will write an introduction with a focused thesis statement. Your thesis must be a statement/assertion that is arguable, NOT a statement of fact. Your introduction must give a synopsis of the comedy as well as background information about Dante. From there, you will transition into the essay in which you will discuss the topic you have chosen.

Your paper should be three pages in length, double-spaced, and you will cite a minimum of three quotes from the book. The entire paper must be in MLA format, and you must use **academic voice and third person (do not use I, you, we, us)**.

**Prompt 1**

Dante's vision of hell has a very carefully worked out structure, which not only indicates punishments for particular crimes but which also ranks sins according to their seriousness. Discuss the importance of this structure of punishments, paying particular attention to what it reveals about Dante's vision of the individual and society, and the various ways these can become corrupt.

**Prompt 2**

In what way is *Inferno* a work of imagination and art rather than one of religion and philosophy alone? How do the poem’s fantastic, imaginative, and dramatic elements contribute to its overall effectiveness?

**Prompt 3**

Discuss Dante’s journey as one of self-discovery and a necessary journey in order to attain spiritual insight and balance. What does he learn about himself and the world in which he lives?

**A checklist is provided on the next page to help you ensure you have completed your essay according to standard academic essay format.**

**Dante’s Inferno Essay Assignment Checklist**

\_\_\_\_\_ Did I review proper MLA format, including in-text citations, general page format, and the works cited page? Do I have an appropriate title for my paper?

\_\_\_\_\_ Do I provide a clear thesis in my introductory paragraph? And does my analysis of my sources (Dante’s poem and, at least, one academic article) provide detailed support for this thesis? Do I just summarize or do I show real intellectual engagement and reflection on the complexity of the issue? (a good technique is to consider a view that might oppose your own)

\_\_\_\_\_ Does the structure of my paper (the body paragraphs) follow my thesis?

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Do I have topic sentences that introduce the key idea in each body paragraph?

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Do I offer proper signal phrases/context BEFORE each quotation?

\_\_\_\_\_ Do I properly and gracefully integrate each quotation into my writing and explain the significance of the quote?

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Do I have at least three typed pages of text AND a separate, properly formatted MLA works cited page?