*The Mark of Zorro*

Shared Inquiry and Argumentative Essay - Chapters 21, 22, 23

Text Prep:

* Identify the punishments Zorro doles out to the dealer, his assistant, and the magistrado.
* Consider how Zorro determines each punishment.

Shared Inquiry Question: **How does Zorro define “justice”?**

* Do you feel that the dealer’s punishment was just? Why?
* Do you feel that the assistant’s punishment was just? Why?
* Do you feel that the magistrado’s punishment was just? Why?

Writing Assignment:

You will write a 3-paragraph essay (7-10 sentences per paragraph). The first paragraph—your introduction--should define “justice” according to Zorro’s actions in general throughout the novel so far. Your definition must be supported by textual evidence (your choice of quotes and/or descriptions of events).

The second paragraph should focus on one of the 3 punishments in these particular chapters. You will explain why Zorro felt that it was just, and then you will explain your own opinion of the punishment. Your opinion is entirely your own, so you may agree or disagree.

In your third paragraph—your conclusion—you will explain your own definition of “justice” and whether or not you agree with Zorro’s beliefs. Whatever your opinion, you must acknowledge a potential counterargument and offer a rebuttal. Focus on emphasizing your own opinion. i.e. Do not make the counterargument sound more convincing than your own beliefs! Use your tone as an author to persuade your audience to agree with your opinion. Be sure to conclude powerfully, leaving your audience with a clear understanding of your opinion.

Lastly, you must complete an outline before beginning your essay. You will create the outline yourself. The only requirement is that it must include all of the requirements listed above.

Reminders:

* Always write in present tense.
* Do not say “I.”
* You must have your essay PRINTED and ready to hand in on the due date.
* Be sure to state the title and author in your introduction
* Complete the Writing Revision Checklist on Weebly before finalizing your essay and staple it to your essay when you hand it in.
* Use the list of transitions and conjunctions posted on Weebly to help you tie your ideas together. \*These can be especially helpful as you offer your counterargument and rebuttal.
* Consider looking back at your *Treasure Island* outline to help you create this one.

**Rubric**

**Structure/Organization \_\_\_\_\_/10**

* Effective topic sentences in all paragraphs
* Effective concluding sentences in all paragraphs
* Context and commentary is offered for all evidence so that the effectiveness of the evidence is clearly conveyed to the reader

**Ideas \_\_\_\_\_/15**

* A clear definition of “justice” is offered.
* Definition is supported by relevant evidence.
* The writer’s own opinion and definition are clearly stated.
* A reasonable counterargument is presented.
* A strong rebuttal is offered in response to the counterargument.

**Language \_\_\_\_\_/5**

* Strong and varied sentence structure
* Precise diction
* Persuasive tone and style that entices the reader to agree with the writer.

**Mechanics \_\_\_\_/5**

* Correct MLA format
* Correct spelling, punctuation, and grammar usage

**Outline \_\_\_\_\_/5**

* Completed with evident effort

**Total \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/40**