

Incoming 9<sup>th</sup> grader  
Mrs. Harris-Jepsen  
Honors English I  
Summer Reading Assignment  
Due: 20 August 2010

Read the book, *Anthem* by Ayn Rand and complete the following assignment. Please follow directions precisely and be prepared to turn in your work the FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL. This book can be purchased independently or borrowed from the school; students can check one out from the attendance office.

### ANTHEM ASSIGNMENT

- Choose **TWO** of the study questions to answer in a 100 word (minimum) paragraph
- Each question must be answered on a separate page indicating question number as title
- MLA format= Typed, Times New Roman font, 12 point font, double spaced, 1” margin
- MLA heading=Aligned left, Student name, Teacher name, Class name, date in European style (see above)
- MLA header=Aligned right corner, student last name and page number (please use Microsoft Word document setting for this, under view or insert)
- Answer using COMPLETE SENTENCES
- Written without the phrases “I believe” or “In my opinion”
- Do not use the terms YOU, YOUR, YOU’RE, I, ME, or MY
- Avoid the use of abbreviations and contractions (can’t, don’t, that’s)
- Employ academic vocabulary (no slang like ‘messed up’ or ‘stuff’)
- Exhibit complex sentence structure
- Display a varied use of conjunctions beyond (since, while, thereby, whereas)

### Study Questions

1. Describe the setting of *Anthem* and how it resembles today's society and environment. Consider factors such as the political structure, technology, social relationships, education, and quality of life.
2. In many totalitarian societies, children live apart from their families. Why would dictatorial leaders enforce this living arrangement? What are the benefits as well as the negative consequences of such a situation?
3. Describe the protagonist, Equality. Include why he is "cursed" and how he reacts to the moral teachings of his society. What is his job? Why does he have this job? How does he feel about committing crimes?
4. There are a whole range of emotions that humans can experience, but fear is the most prevalent in Equality's society. Why is this? Is this accurate about modern American society?
5. In chapter five, Equality makes a discovery. What is this discovery and why is it important? Describe four or five ways in which it would help make society more enjoyable and life easier.
6. Equality's name is changed to "Unconquered" in chapter four; why is this relevant? What are the connotations and denotations of both his old and new name? Does this foreshadow a future event or simply reflect the character's past?
7. Equality's invention will benefit mankind greatly, but this is not his motivation for creating it. Why did he conduct experiments and what is his primary source of joy?
8. The Council rejects Equality's invention. Describe the four main reasons why the Council's rejection. What are the real reasons behind their fear of the gift?

9. Equality says, “We are old now, but we were young this morning” (Rand 68). What does this statement mean and how is it received. ‘
10. Liberty contrast Equality to his fellow men on pages 93-94. What does the contrast say about the morality of his former society? How do these qualities measure up to what he was previously taught about solitude, good, evil, and joy with what he now believes?
11. In chapter ten, the house and contents is described. Explain why Liberty and Equality find it so strange and unique. Use specific examples to detail your response.
12. In chapter 11, Equality realizes he has a goal and purpose. What are these? Describe how the incident with the Saint of the Pyre fits into this newfound understanding.
13. The characters of Prometheus and Gaea were not allowed to choose their names in old society. Why not? What do they plan to do in the future and how does that reflect the concept that “to be free, a man must be free of his brothers” (Rand 101).
14. Discuss how the novel *Anthem* is an inspiring story about the triumph of the independent spirit. Explain how Equality is heroic despite being greatly outnumbered in a modern society that lies in ruin. How is the reader left with a feeling of hope?
15. How does our society treat independent thinkers, daring innovators, and successful entrepreneurs like Equality? Are they applauded or criticized? Support your answer with specific example from modern America.