

Essay: Holden's Rant
American Literature

Topic

Holden has a mistrustful, cynical view of adult society. He views growing up as a slow surrender to the “phony” responsibilities of adult life, such as getting a job, serving in the military, and maintaining intimate relationships. However, Holden continually falls victim to the very same “phoniness” he criticizes—he is hypocritical; he contradicts himself; he lies; and though he would prefer to stay frozen in the perpetual innocence of childhood, he goes to great pains to prove his adulthood by cursing, smoking, drinking, and showing off. He is a walking contradiction with very little self-awareness.

Using the stylistic elements of Holden's narrative delivery, choose an object of scorn and give me your best “Holden Caulfield rant!”

Remember

Be creative, colorful, and concise. Refer to the novel, refer to your annotation, and familiarize yourself with the rubric on back.

Due _____ at the beginning of class

Students must present a paper copy of the essay (with rubric stapled behind it) in class by the due date

Essays must also be submitted as an email attachment (dmcevilly@ecusd7.org)

As always, a trip to the Writing Center will benefit your paper . . . and I'm usually available after school

***Special Reminder**

In life, there are always obstacles to encounter. Don't assume that everything will go smoothly all of the time. Procrastination is your greatest enemy. Prepare . . . and find alternative paths to success when things come up. I always give you a full week to complete a single one-page essay. So when class begins on the day the essay is due, I would simply like to collect them. The following comprises a list of excuses and questions I don't want to hear:

- *I was on a field trip/athletic event so my paper's not late . . . right?*
- *My computer broke.*
- *My printer broke.*
- *My printer ran out of ink.*
- *I don't have a printer; can I go print it in the library now? We're not doing anything important, right?*
- *I have it saved on my flash drive, but I haven't printed it out.*
- *I have it saved on my flash drive, but the school computers won't open it.*
- *Here's my flash drive; just return it when you're done.*
- *I didn't write my essay in Word/I work on Vista/I work on a Mac, and the school computers can't open it.*
- *I printed it out, but I forgot to send it as an attachment.*
- *I printed it out, but I forgot to save it.*
- *I forgot to save it and I forgot to print it . . . do you know how to fix that?*
- *I emailed it to you, but I didn't print it out.*
- *My paper wouldn't "send."*
- *My dog ate my paper.*
- *My brother ate my computer.*
- *My computer ate my brother.*
- *The computers have revolted and taken over my household! Our lust for technology will be our own undoing!*
- *We had a paper due today?*

RUBRIC

—“Rants” that are not at least 400 words will receive no more than half-credit—

<i>Formatting</i>	<i>Mechanics</i>	<i>Voice</i> <i>Do you sound as obnoxious as Holden?</i>	<i>Tone</i> <i>Do you feel as conflicted as Holden?</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> On Time and Rubric Included <input type="checkbox"/> Engaging Title <input type="checkbox"/> Clear Object of Scorn <input type="checkbox"/> Proper Font and Spacing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 point • Times New Roman • 1.5 Line Spacing • 1” Left-Justified Margins <input type="checkbox"/> Proper Information, Typed, and Properly Formatted in the Upper Left Corner <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • name • course • period 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> No Spelling Errors <input type="checkbox"/> No Comma Splices <input type="checkbox"/> No Fragments or Run-ons <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • unless appropriate to voice <input type="checkbox"/> No Tense or Agreement Errors <input type="checkbox"/> No Other Errors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • grammar • mechanical • punctuation • capitalization 	<p>Uses Direct Address Effectively</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <p>Uses Hyperbole Effectively</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bold each use of hyperbole <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <p>Uses Repetition Effectively</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Circle each repeated phrase</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <p>Uses Contradiction Effectively</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Italicize each contradictory thought or statement</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <p>Uses Tangents Effectively</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Offset tangents by enclosing each in parentheses) <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <p>Diction and Syntax <i>Effectively</i> Mimic the Assigned Narrative Voice and Create a Mood Appropriate to the Theme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent 	<p>Indicate where you feel you’ve satisfied the requirements of tone by <u>underlining</u> in your rant the <i>best</i> example of each of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Fascinated yet Afraid <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holden is fascinated by girls, adulthood, and intimate relationships, and yet at the same time afraid of those very same things <input type="checkbox"/> Confident yet Insecure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holden expresses great confidence to the reader, but it’s clear (if one reads between the lines) that his confidence masks a deeper desperation and insecurity <input type="checkbox"/> Naïve yet Insightful <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holden is immature and naïve about both the world and his place in it, and yet every now and then he manages to find some deeper and more honest insight into himself . . . and the world

Total Point Score: _____ /25