We have spent the last few days in class building a response to an AP-style prompt that asked us to analyze how Dickens used literary devices to achieve his purpose in the wine shop passage from Book the First, Chapter 5. Now it is your turn. Your next major writing assignment will be an in-depth, interpretive analysis of a passage from *A Tale of Two Cities*.

You will choose a passage from the text and complete the same steps that we completed in class. First, you will need to determine the passage’s possible purposes. Then you will need to discern what literary elements in the passage contribute to that purpose. Once you have done so, create a working thesis, and then build a list of potential evidence from which you may choose as you shape your essay. Over the next several weeks, I will point out passages to you in class that will work for this assignment. You are not limited to these passages, though; feel free to choose any passage that you feel has a clear purpose and literary elements that work to achieve that purpose. Passage length may range from several paragraphs to several pages; just ensure that there is enough there for you to analyze adequately. The only parts of the text that are off limits are Chapters 1 and 5 of Book the First.

Your essay must be a MINIMUM of four paragraphs – introduction, two body paragraphs, and a conclusion. The introduction must end with a thesis statement that states the purpose of your selected passage and the literary devices used to achieve it. Each subsequent body paragraph should then begin with a topic sentence that directly relates back to the thesis.
sample 2

statement. From there, the entire body paragraph must work to prove the topic sentence. Each body paragraph must also have a minimum of three (3) pieces of evidence in the form of embedded, contextualized quotations from the novel with appropriate internal citations. Since you are only writing about one work, the appropriate format for an internal citation will only contain the page number from your edition of the novel. The citation will look like this: (317). For each piece of evidence, you must have a minimum of two sentences of commentary/analysis. Remember that your analysis must explain what the evidence does and how the evidence does it. Finally, be sure to end each body paragraph with a concluding sentence and the essay as a whole with a concluding paragraph that brings your paper effectively to a close.

Your essay must adhere to MLA guidelines, or heavy point deductions will result. The essay must be uniformly double-spaced with 1” margins and typed in 12-point Times New Roman font. Be sure to include a proper MLA heading and a header with your last name and the pagination. The header should be 1” from the right edge of the page and ½” from the top edge of the page. Finally, be sure that your essay has both an original title and a Works Cited page.

You will need to complete your planning (including annotations) and an essay skeleton by Friday, March 1. The typed rough draft of the essay will be due for a quiz grade on Friday, March 8. The grade for the rough draft is a process grade per the TEKS and IS NOT reflective of what you should expect as the final grade for your essay. The final draft will be due in hard copy and at www.turnitin.com for a summative grade at the beginning of your class period on Tuesday, March 19. Rules regarding plagiarism and cheating will be strictly enforced. We will follow the AP rubric distributed in class, and exact point values will be announced at a later date.

Please ask for help should you need any at all. We practiced this together, so standards are high. I look forward to reading what I’m sure will be thoughtful and insightful essays!