

One Page Concept Review: **Development in Q2 Essays**

Intro and Thesis in an Upper-Half Essay

In this passage from *The Adventures of Peregrine Pickle*, and 18th century work by Tobias Smollett, Mr. Pickle happens on an encounter with the soldier Godfrey Gauntlet, who wishes to know about Mr. Pickle's relationship with his sister. This culminates in intense emotions firing between the pair of them and a physical duel, yet all the while, Smollett shows how such tension and emotions were in part kept in check by an element of honor, dignity, and respect that was expected from the two men as per the social norms of the time.

- Argument: honor, dignity, and respect constrain the expression of emotions

Intro and Thesis in a Lower-Half Essay

In Tobias Smollett's *The Adventures of Peregrine Pickle* Smollett attempts to explore the complex result of intense emotion while functioning in societal norms.

- Uses the exact words of the prompt without actually taking a position
- No attempt to narrow or clarify the topic

A Portion of a Body Paragraph in an Upper-Half Essay (one of two total body paragraphs-- half the argument)

Yet this passage also takes into account the role of societal norms and expectations, from chivalrous values such as honor and dignity to the foundation of their insults on social hierarchy— this illustrates the idea that even though tensions in this conflict are running high between the two individuals, the idea of social norms holds them in check and keeps them focused on maintaining these standards. As aforementioned, many of Mr. Pickle's insults are based on the poverty and poor appearance of Mr. Gauntlet, which he believes does not befit a gentleman. The fact that his insults are targeted towards the social standing of his opponent illustrates the high priority that this maintenance of social hierarchy is for him. Moreover, instead of proceeding to blows and lowly insults, they continue to address each other as "Sir" (4, 5, 9, 13), which serves to illustrate how even with such conflict, both parties strive to maintain the sense of dignity and honor associated with being gentlemen. Again, the fact that Mr. Gauntlet insults Mr. Pickle by calling him a "presumptuous boy" (27), causing him to "retort with great bitterness" (28), serves to show that the insults are again aimed at the social standing and honor of the opponent. Ironically despite the two gentlemen bitterly despising each other, they choose to resolve their struggle through "a formal challenge" (29). The formality of the duel shows what a large role social standards play in their lives, as instead of proceeding to blows, they opt for a formal, respectable conflict. Ironically again, even as they are preparing themselves for the fight, they "helped to pull off each other's boots" (32-33), as treating with respect and honor was a high priority for them, even if it was helping someone you hated and were just about to fight in the coming minutes. Mr. Gauntlet insults Mr. Pickle's swordplay abilities, and he offers a pistol fight, but Mr. Pickle "was too confident of his own skill to relish the other's proposal (40-41); thus, even though he may have a better chance with different weapons, he refuses the opportunity on account of his honor. [...]

- There is a topic sentence; the writer understands what each paragraph is going to accomplish
- Evidence is in the form of quotation, with paraphrase helping to give it context
- One doesn't have to read the passage to follow the argument
- This is extremely well-supported for a forty minute essay (I cut about a third of the paragraph)

Body Paragraph in a Lower-Half Essay (one of two total body paragraphs--half the argument)

Smollett describes an event of uncontrollable emotion between a lover and a woman's brother. The woman's brother, Mr. Godfrey portrays a tone of curiosity when he inquires about the relationship between his sister and Mr. Pickle. In response to Godfrey's questioning, Mr. Pickle's tone portrays annoyance and can be considered sarcastic and snarky. By using two strong and conflicting emotions, Smollett then examines the result of a conflict that would be socially accepted. Smollett describes Mr. Pickle to be bitter towards Godfrey and portrays a duel between them.

- There is a tone topic sentence, but half the development is about something else entirely (badly summarizing unrelated events); no evidence of planning
- Mostly summary
- Over-reliance on paraphrase; no quotation at all (the argument is not grounded specifically in text)
- Analysis takes the form of more claims without explanation; there is no attempt to actually persuade the reader

Conclusion in Upper-Half Essay

Although the conflict between Mr. Pickle and Mr. Gauntlet began as a confrontation over a relationship with Godfrey Gauntlet's sister, tensions between the two inflamed due to their insults directed at honor and dignity of the men. They resolved their disagreements with a formal duel, yet the respect they treated each other with and the evolving nature of their conflict to be more centered on their social standings and honor serves to illustrate the deep underlying influence of social norm and its predisposition on emotions and other aspects of daily life during this time period.

- Sums up the argument
- Connects to the big picture (in this case, characterization and social setting)

Conclusion in Lower-Half Essay

Overall, Smollett creates a situation between two emotionally driven men, yet they remain faithful to society's expectations. Through this narrative, readers are able to recognize and understand that societal norms hold a high influence on the actions of people.

- Attempts to connect to the big picture (in this case, theme), but does so in a generalized, non-specific way
- That said, this is the most successful portion of the essay