

ESSAY 1: "*Inferno*", Dante Alighieri

LENGTH: 1,000 words: typed, double spaced, 12 pt. Times New Roman

DUE DATE: March 23 2020

In the course of his journey through the circles of *Inferno*, Dante pilgrim interacts with a wide array of characters from the ancient and contemporary world. Some of them seek to be remembered, others wish to be forgotten; some ask for favors, others none at all. His reactions vary from patient listening to fainting out of "pity" to chastising and lecturing them. In your essay consider the problem of Dante pilgrim's attitude towards the damned. When is it proper for him to show compassion? When is it not? Why and how so, given the wide range of interactions that mark this stage of his journey? Make sure to compare and contrast **two episodes** in your essay. **At least one of the two** should be chosen from the following: the exchange with Francesca da Rimini, his interaction with Pier delle Vigne, Virgil's rebuke at the beginning of Canto 29, and Dante's response to the scene of Master Adam and Sinon in *Inferno* 30.

You are free to consult any primary or secondary sources that you wish. Let depth and quality of thought (not quantity of thoughts) be your guide.

Please remember to underline your thesis sentence and your topic sentences.