**Dead Poets Society Argumentative Essay**

All of us are called upon to make choices between following our hearts and following what society deems appropriate or acceptable. Sometimes a choice causes a series of events that we had not counted on.

**Prompt**

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| Choose a character from the movie, *Dead Poets Society*, who made an important choice(s) that reflects a new way of thinking and/or that had drastic consequences. In an argumentative essay argue whether that character and people should live a life of “Carpe Diem” (Keating) or resign themselves to “lead lives of quiet desperation” as Thoreau warns against? |

**Requirements**

* The response should provide thorough and convincing elaboration of the support/evidence for the claim and argument(s) including reasoned, in depth analysis and the effective use of sources.
* The response should clearly and effectively develops ideas, using precise language:
  + Include a counter position to prove invalid
  + comprehensive evidence (facts and details) from the source material is integrated, relevant, and specific
  + clear citations & acknowledgement to source material (paraphrasing)
  + vocabulary is clearly appropriate for the audience and purpose (academic)
  + effective, appropriate style enhances content

**Things to consider:**

* Explain the choice or series of related choices
* Identify what element of transcendentalism the character’s choice relates.
* Describe what lead up to the choice; for example, events, changes in behavior, or outlook on life, societal or parental expectations… Did another person (or society in general) have any influence on the decision?
* Evaluate the choice(s): was it a good one? (Think about the short and long run) Was it all the character could do given his inexperience in life?

***Dead Poets Society*** (1989), directed by Peter Weir

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| * The school: Wellton * Mr. Keating, the new teacher of poetry and literature, played by Robin Williams * Mr. Nolan, the head administrator * Neal Perry, tall, dark-haired "leader" of the boys, plays Puck in *Midsummer Nights Dream* * Todd Anderson, new kid, Neal's roommate, extremely shy, the protagonist, the hero | * Charlie Dalton, really smart, spunky, wise guy, makes a phone call from God * Knox Overstreet, brown hair, falls in love with Chris * Richard Cameron, red-haired, rational, studious, nerdy, turns against Mr. Keating and the “Dead Poets” * Gerard Pitts, tall, a secondary character * Steven Meeks, red-haired, glasses, secondary character |