

AP Transcendentalism Assignment
Emerson, Thoreau, Dettmar and *Dead Poets Society*

Criteria	4 Exceeds Standard	3 Meets Standard	2 Approaches Standard	1 Fails to Meet Standard
Analysis of Rhetorical Techniques (25%)	Essay thoughtfully analyzes many of Dettmar's techniques. Each is properly labeled. Thorough support is given for each analysis.	Essay analyzes several of Dettmar's techniques. Each is properly labeled, and support is given for each analysis.	Essay analyzes some of Dettmar's obvious techniques. Some may not be labeled or may be mislabeled. Support is sometimes insubstantial or inappropriate.	Essay analyzes few of Dettmar's techniques. Some may not be labeled or may be mislabeled. Support is often insubstantial or inappropriate.
Knowledge and Understanding of Literature (25%)	Essay demonstrates thorough knowledge and deep, sophisticated understanding of the works of both Emerson and Thoreau as well as <i>Dead Poets Society</i> .	Essay demonstrates knowledge and understanding of the works of both Emerson and Thoreau as well as <i>Dead Poets Society</i> .	Essay sometimes demonstrates knowledge and understanding of either the works of Emerson or Thoreau and of <i>Dead Poets Society</i> .	Essay fails to demonstrate knowledge or understanding of the works of Emerson or Thoreau or of <i>Dead Poets Society</i> .
Organization (10%)	Strong, meaningful order and structure enhanced by thoughtful transitioning. Paragraphs have topic and concluding sentences with appropriate illustration and example in the body of each.	Organization is appropriate, with needed transitional devices present. Most paragraphs are properly constructed with topic and concluding sentences and appropriate support.	Attempts at organization; may at times be a summary with no apparent point. Transitions are often lacking. Some paragraphs are properly constructed	Lack of coherence; confusing; hard to follow. Little or no identifiable structure to paragraphs or to the whole.
Voice, Audience, Word Choice (15%)	Expressive, engaging, sincere. Always appropriate to audience and purpose Shows emotion: humor, honesty, suspense or life where appropriate. Language is always precise and appropriate Word choice energizes writing	Writing is clear but may lack originality or seem mechanical; is correct but mundane. Generally appropriate to audience and purpose.	Writing is sometimes verbose, wordy, and/or unnatural. Sometimes not appropriate to audience and purpose. Sometimes monotonous or repetitious. Word choice is sometimes imprecise, murky and confusing.	Writing is often verbose, wordy, and/or unnatural. Often monotonous or repetitious. Shows little or no sense of audience or purpose. Imprecise, murky word choice impedes reader's comprehension.
Sentence Fluency (15%)	Sentences show a high degree of craftsmanship. Sentences patterns are varied and effective. Punctuation enhances meaning for the reader.	Sentence structure is always correct. Sentence patterns show some variety. Punctuation is always correct.	One or more sentences lack correct structure. Sentences are choppy or wandering. Sentence patterns show little variety. There are errors in punctuation.	Sentences often disjointed, confusing, and rambling. The writing is difficult to follow. There are several run-ons and/or fragments.
Conventions (10%)	Exceptionally strong control of conventions. Errors are few and minor	Control of most writing conventions. Occasional errors do not interfere with understanding.	Limited control of conventions; frequent errors detract from content.	Frequent significant errors may impede readability.