

ALBERTA POS ENGLISH

The two major writing assignments on the Alberta diploma exam, taken at the completion of English 30-1, are the Personal Response and the Critical/Analytical Essay. Due to the significant weight of the exam, it is therefore advisable to be practicing these two assignments along the way - throughout grade 10, grade 11, and grade 12 - rather than leaving them until the final semester to practice. The following is a sample of a possible **scope and sequence** for such an endeavor:

For the PERSONAL RESPONSE:

| GRADE LEVEL | CHOICE OF PROSE | TEXT PROVIDED | QUESTION ASKED |
|--------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|--|
| Over the course of gr 10 | Practice with any of the prose styles allowed | Photo (only) | Open ended "What does this image reveal to you?" |
| Gr 11 | Practice a variety of styles and voices in prose | Photo + poem + excerpt from a novel | Specific but only one layer of focus: "What does this reveal about the significance of courage?" |
| Gr 12 | Narrow down your styles of prose to strengthen your voice/delivery of that particular choice in time for the exam | Photo + poem + excerpt from a novel | Specific and multi-layered question, in the style of the diploma exam: "What do these suggest about the ways an individual handles courage when faced with isolation?" |



For the CRITICAL/ANALYTICAL ESSAY:

| GRADE LEVEL | LENGTH & NUMBER | QUESTION & CONDITIONS |
|----------------------------|--|---|
| During the course of gr 10 | Complete a minimum of 3 individual body paragraphs analyzing one character, including three ideas, supported by three quotes. Complete one 4-para essay. | Open ended question: “What does the author suggest about life/human nature?” All assignments completed over time; one single paragraph assigned under exam conditions |
| Grade 11 | Complete 1-2 individual body paragraphs (as necessary for review). Complete a minimum of 2 five-para essays on multiple characters | Specific question with one layer: “What does the author suggest regarding an individual’s courage in the face of adversity?” One essay should be written under exam conditions. |
| Grade 12 | Complete 3-4 five-para essays on an individual character. | Diploma style question, multi-layered: “What does the author suggest regarding an individual’s emotional courage under competing internal/external demands?” One or two essays should be written under exam conditions. |

