



11AP – Socratic Circle  
*The Catcher in the Rye*

1. The AP Language course requires students to deepen their understanding about the impact of language. With that in mind, consider the occasions of profanity used in the novel. Also, read the following article that details common objections to the novel: [http://205.188.238.181/time/specials/packages/article/0,28804,1842832\\_1842838\\_1845068,00.html](http://205.188.238.181/time/specials/packages/article/0,28804,1842832_1842838_1845068,00.html)  
Considering the possibility of audience rejection, why might the author have chosen to incorporate this specific diction? Also, make a case that either supports or refutes the novel *The Catcher in the Rye* from being a banned book in the American classroom.
2. *The Catcher in the Rye* is a monologue: one person talking to another person. For Holden, that other person is (1) his psychiatrist, and (2) his reader. What does this speaker want from you? Why might the author have chosen to write the novel from this one perspective?
3. Salinger is using this novel to make an impression on the reader – to ultimately – persuade you of some ideas or meanings. His character choices are part of this rhetorical strategy because all characters in novels represent something much larger than a single person. Other than Holden, choose one male character AND one female character and discuss the significance of each of those characters.
4. Holden Caulfield focuses many times on the rather minute details in life - some are important and others are of no importance. Why would the author have Holden recount these details to the reader? What does the author hope to accomplish?
5. Holden is probably one of the most rebellious, cynical, and disturbed characters you will ever meet in a novel. But he represents a complexity that is common among all humans and being able to identify/empathize with others on some level is what distinguishes us from other animals. In what ways can you identify with Holden?

Tips for Success:

1. Textual evidence is key to developing quality responses. Look for just the right quotes to use.
2. Review the “Socratic Circle Preparation Guide” (blue sheet) for detailed instructions on how to complete your assignment.
3. Submit the completed document to Turnitin.com.
4. Your typed responses and Turnitin originality report are due together on the assigned due date. Any late assignment will be a 70% prior to grading.