

In Cold Blood

Capote produced a new genre of writing called creative non-fiction which emerges from the uniquely American humanist literary tradition of the late 1800's and early 1900's and is now accepted and praised world wide as an approach to realistic events that blend elements of both fiction and reportage. It is the precursor of our humanistic broadcast style that emerges in the 1970's and remains as a particularly American approach to news casting.

Pick two of the following to discuss in writing.

1. How is montage used in *In Cold Blood*? In other words, how does the back- and-forth description of events in Holcomb and events surrounding Dick and Perry impact Capote's purpose?
2. If you research the historical accuracy of *In Cold Blood*, you will find that some of the details and situations included in the novel are fabricated. Does the lack of objectivity alter Capote's credibility as an author? What is truth and untruth and how are we to know as receivers of communication?
3. Is Capote controlling your reaction to some people and not others? What are the reasons behind this?
4. Why do you think Capote split the narrative into three sections? Why do you think he did not describe how the murders happened until Dick and Perry were caught and gave their confessions?

Pick one of the following to discuss in writing.

1. Does Capote write *In Cold Blood* as a protest against the death penalty? If so, is he successful?
2. What kind of commentary is Capote making about how humanity responds to social tensions of the underclass?
3. What kind of commentary is Capote making about the American experience?

Changes in expectations for Socratic Circle written responses

- ***Each answer must be at least 300 words in length.***
- ***Each answer must incorporate at least 3 different pieces of textual evidence (evidence cannot be reused in subsequent responses).***
- ***From now on, I will randomly choose one of your responses to grade closely. That means I will be scrutinizing your:***
 - ***Argument development***
 - ***Use of evidence - relevance and quality***
 - ***Writing style***
 - ***Grammar & mechanics***
 - ***Adherence to MLA citing practices***