

## English II

### Essay Prompts

#### *Lord of the Flies*

1. Frequently a literary character is thrust into a predicament that makes little or no rational sense. As a result, the character either gives in to the situation's absurdity or takes actions to defy it. Choose one of the four main characters from *Lord of the Flies* – Ralph, Jack, Piggy, or Simon – and assess the course this character takes to resolve the irrational situation. Show how the character's actions contribute to the meaning of the work as a whole (i.e. Golding's message). In your discussion of this character and his predicament, include this character's connection to one or more of the social contract theories proposed by Hobbes, Locke, and Rousseau.
2. Many times in literature a character is tempted to make a decision that runs counter to his sense of morality, loyalty, social position, or upbringing. Choose a character from *Lord of the Flies* who is tempted to act against his moral, social, or spiritual foundation. In your essay, show what decisions the character makes and indicate how those decisions later impact both the character and the work as a whole. You must include this character's connection to one or more of the social contract theories proposed by Hobbes, Locke, and Rousseau. You may also want to include ideas from the CommonLit.org articles we read.
3. Trace the development of one of the four main characters in *Lord of the Flies*, applying concepts discussed in the social contract theories of Hobbes, Locke, or Rousseau, and how this character's development contributes to one of the themes of the novel. In your essay, you must also refer to at least one of the CommonLit articles: Online Identity, Tribalism, or Why Good People Do Bad Things.

Your essay must be approximately 1200 words and must include in-text citations from the novel and the articles.