**Tess of the D’Urbervilles **

**Essay Prompts**

1. In the novel *Tess of the d’Urbervilles*, author Thomas Hardy employs a plethora of literary techniques/devices to tell the story of Tess Durbeyfield. Write an essay analyzing how Hardy uses structure, language (this can include figurative language, imagery, or diction), and pathos to narrate Tess’s journey from innocence to experience.
2. In the novel *Tess of the d’Urbervilles*, author Thomas Hardy employs a plethora of literary techniques/devices to tell the story of Tess Durbeyfield. Write an essay analyzing how Hardy uses foil character(s), imagery, and tone to create a sympathetic protagonist in Tess.
3. In the novel *Tess of the d’Urbervilles*, author Thomas Hardy employs a plethora of literary techniques/devices to tell the story of Tess Durbeyfield. Write an essay analyzing how Hardy uses landscape (setting) to the illuminate Tess, Angel, and Alec.
4. In the novel *Tess of the d’Urbervilles*, author Thomas Hardy employs a plethora of literary techniques/devices to tell the story of Tess Durbeyfield’s alienation from society and her enrichment as a result of this isolation. Write an essay examining Tess’s alienation and its impact, Tess’s enrichment resulting from the alienation, and how these two opposing experiences contribute to the meaning of the work as a whole (theme).
5. Hardy originally subtitled his novel, *Tess of the D’Urbervilles*, as “A Pure Woman.” Choose three key scenes in the novel that clearly demonstrate Hardy’s attitude (tone) toward Tess, and show how Hardy employs figurative language, allusion (Biblical), and symbolism to paint Tess in a positive light.
6. Explore how Hardy’s novel, Tess of the D’Urbervilles, could be interpreted through the following critical approaches: feminism, criticism of social institutions (e.g. hypocrisy in religion, social class distinctions), and naturalism.
7. Hardy’s criticism of many of his characters’ religious views and lives is revealed through irony. Analyze how religious irony affects Tess, Angel, and Alec.
8. Many students argue that Alec did the most harm to Tess; others say Angel. Still other students place the blame on a different character altogether. Argue which character does the most damage to Tess and why, using evidence and commentary to convincingly assert your conclusions. *\*If you choose this option, you must have one full OREO placed just before your conclusion the serves as a counterclaim (you put forth the best argument of an opposing viewpoint and then proceed to argue it into the ground!)*