

Summer Project || *Self & Soul: A Defense of Ideals*

Generate a reader's response essay discussing the theories of Mark Edmundson in his book *Self & Soul: A Defense of Ideals*.

Full paper DUE: Friday 08/31 (before midnight) in Turnitin.com

Period 2 ID: 18843333

Period 4 ID: 18843354

Password: BritLit

Period 5 ID: 18843366

OBJECTIVES

1. Isolate a strong thesis statement in opening paragraph.
2. Remember you want to feature your topic throughout the essay.
Each paragraph must defend your main focus. Be sure to support the thesis with detailed evidence from Mark Edmundson's book *Self & Soul*.
3. When writing the first draft, be sure resulting paragraphs include topic sentences relating to your thesis. Use at least one quote **per body** paragraph.
4. Create an interesting, intricate introduction which clearly shows the focus of your essay and leads the reader into subsequent paragraphs.
5. Be sure each new paragraph includes a strong transitional phrase.
6. Use five or more sentences per paragraph.
7. Use the correct MLA essay format outlined.
8. Provide **Works Cited** page.
- 10. Essay Length: 2 pages, plus works cited page.**
11. Keep in mind you do want to avoid clichéd writing:
12. *Be sure to proof your work.*

EXPECTATIONS

1. Read the following article for backup information:

“You’ve Got to have Soul, U. VA. Professor Mark Edmundson Says in New Book”

by Anne E. Bromley

(link: <https://news.virginia.edu/content/you-ve-got-have-soul-uva-professor-mark-edmundson-says-new-book>)

2. In a two-page essay, utilize textual evidence from the supplied article and the summer reading, select three of the following sections for academic analysis.
Each section should have at least one-two paragraph response, with one quote.
3. Follow MLA standards. Include work cited.
4. Closing paragraph must explain:
 - ∴ which of the three ideals (Hero, Saint, Thinker) apply to your own life
 - ∴ do you feel there is a loss of ideals in the modern world? Why or why not?
5. Outside research is encouraged, but not expected. < *talk to me first*

SELECTIONS (choose only three)

I. *Introduction*: “You’ve Got to Have Soul”

- ∴ explain in detail Edmundson’s defense of his definition of “soul”
- ∴ explain in detail Edmundson’s defense of his definition of “self”
- ∴ do you agree with his assumptions?

II. The Hero

- ∴ explain Edmundson’s character analysis of the hero Achilles
 - What impressions does he imply modern readers may feel about this character?
 - How does Achilles fit the heroic ideal? (7, 21-24, 28, 40)
 - Do you agree with his perceptions of Achilles’ personality traits?
- ∴ explain Edmundson’s character analysis of Odysseus (29, 36-37)
 - Propose why would he call Odysseus the “first pragmatist” (29).
 - Define “pragmatism” in your own words.
 - What other literary figure could you label as being “pragmatic”?

III. The Saint

- ∴ explain how Edmundson compares Achilles with Gautama (Buddha) (49, 52, 84-85)
 - Were you surprised by his analysis? Do you agree with his assumptions?
- ∴ explain how Edmundson compares Jesus with Buddha (64)

IV. The Thinker

- ∴ explain how Edmundson compares/contrasts the hero with the thinker (89, 100-101)
- ∴ explain the love/hate relationship thinkers have with books and writing (91-94)