

DIAGNOSTIC ESSAY PROMPT

Instructions

1. Read the Robert Yagelski's "Abby's Lament" and take careful notes on the author's argument and major claims.
2. Use the following questions to guide your response to the article:
 - What is the author trying to convince people of in the article?
 - To what extent do you agree and/or disagree with the author's argument.

Note: There is no correct answer. Take a few minutes to think about the article and your stance before you begin writing. You should explore and consider various perspectives as you develop your response. Be sure to organize and develop your ideas, make any revisions that you think are necessary and to proofread your response.

Format

Your paper should include the following information:

- an introduction, a body, and a conclusion,
- a clear, controlling point, also known as a "thesis" statement,
- a brief summary of the author's topic and argument(s), and
- specific examples from the article that support, clarify, illustrate, and/or defend your stance.