***A Tale of Two Cities***

**Term 4 Analytical Essay Date Due:** In Class, May 31st

**Please choose one of the two following prompts for essay.**

**Choice One-What is moral in times of war?**

In literature, some characters are clearly heroic or villainous. Other characters, however, are more ambiguous, displaying a mixture of positive and negative qualities. In a well-organized **five** paragraph essay, consider at least three different characters in *A Tale of Two Cities*. Explain what makes one (or more) character(s) morally “good,” what makes one (or more) character(s) “morally bad,” and finally what makes one (or more) character(s) “morally ambiguous” (these will be your DIs). Your analysis should discuss how Dickens’ use of characterization portrays a particular theme (your MI).

**Choice Two-What is the Ideal Woman?**

Ever since the patriarchal Mycenaeans annihilated the female dominated Minoans, the portrayals of women in all patriarchal cultures have been purposely created to engender or maintain the social hierarchy. Consider Dickens’ novel and his portrayal of women in *A Tale of Two Cities*-specifically Lucie Manette and Madame Defarge, the two major characters, and Miss Pross and the seamstress, two minor characters. In a well-organized, **five** paragraph essay, examine the way these women: 1) relate to the men in their lives, 2) display moral or compassionate behavior, and exert their 3) level of independence versus their level self-sacrifice **(these are your DIS). Your analysis should discuss how Dickens’ characterization of these women reinforces a feminine (or Victorian) ideal. (your MI).** Be sure to EXPLAIN: the relationship an ideal woman “should” share with men, to what extent women “should” act morally or compassionate, and whether a woman “should” be independent or self-sacrificial, according to the text.

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| **Paragraphs** | **Essay Choice #\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** |
| **Introduction**  MI  DIs #1    #2  #3 |  |
| **DP1-**  DD 1  DD2  DD3 |  |
| **DP2**  DD 1  DD2  DD3 |  |
| **DP3**  DD 1  DD2  DD3 |  |
| **Conclusion**  RFS |  |