

You will need to carefully read the selection below and complete various activities using the essay as your basis.

Using the highlight function on your computer, you will need to mark the essay below. It will be necessary for you to read the essay several times to fully understand the essay and complete the markings in such a way that demonstrates a close reading of the essay. You will need to use the following chart to correctly mark the essay.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Highlight Color | Item to be identified | Use an X to indicate you have accomplished this task. Use NA if this task did not apply to this essay. |
| PINK | Mark the main idea of the essay. |  |
| AQUA | Mark key examples/ support for the main idea/ theme of the essay. |  |
| GREEN | Mark statements that you agree with . |  |
| YELLOW | Mark statements that are new to you or make you think in a new way. |  |
| RED | Mark statements in the essay that you disagree with. |  |
| GRAY | Mark terms/ concepts that you found difficult to understand. |  |

The time I began reading and marking this assignment was:

I believe that religion is not all that important, maybe even useless. In my eyes, religion just causes extreme conflict and controversy across the world. The problem is that everyone believes themselves to be correct, but what if in truth no one is correct? What if everything is just a made up story that has been passed down for generations and generations? For me, religion is just another problem-maker in the world.

As far as I have seen, religion has had more negative outcomes than positive outcomes in the world. I haven’t seen any miracles happen or prayers answered by some mystic all-powerful being in my life. These kinds of things only happen in movies or stories. If a miracle does occur, wouldn’t it be much more reasonable by saying it’s a coincidence? The fact that something happened when it happened is what makes it a coincidence. I also believe that being religious is a waste of time. Every week you go to a place of worship and pray and participate in activities that don’t do much good for you. I find these activities irrelevant to life.

Conflict is being caused all the time by religion: In schools, out in the real world, everywhere. Students at school sometimes become extremely offended when the science teachers teach about evolution because it “goes against their religion”. Whenever this happens, I think, “Are you serious? None of this would even happen if religion didn’t exist.” People’s different beliefs usually start fights, which can end up being something serious, sometimes resulting in death. If everyone believes that they’re correct, then there’s no way to tell who’s actually right. If no one can provide any proof that they’re correct, then really I think no one gets to say that their religion is correct.

Religion really is unimportant if you think about it. When I think about religion, I can’t name one way it benefits everyday life. I can only think of negative outcomes of it. Some of those, as I stated before, are the fact that a person wastes a lot of their life’s time going to their places of worship, the fact that it causes lots of conflict, and that it leads someone down a path of false hope. Now, when people begin to talk about religion, I won’t blurt out that they’re wasting their time and that they should forget about it; I wouldn’t do something like that. However, I don’t like religion because I think it would waste too much time. My schedule is busy enough without additional days of going to worship places. I can fill in that free time with additional studying and improving my school work, not to mention extracurricular activities at school. Religion, to me, is maybe one of the most useless things to me in the world.

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| Your response should be self-contained. When someone reads your responses, they should be able to tell which question you are responding to.  In marking the essay you should be clear in what idea and item you are reacting to. The markings should indicate a close and personal reading of the essay. Excessive markings or lack of markings may indicate a failure to have closely read and comprehended the essay. |  |
| Based on your reading and marking of the essay identify the main idea of the essay as well as support including direct quotations and evidence from the essay. Your response should be limited to no more than one (1) well written and adequately edited paragraph. |  |
| Using at least two (2) of the writing prompts below and in no more than three (3) well written and adequately edited paragraphs create a response to the essay:   * The part (s) of the essay I agreed with were * The part (s) of the essay I disagreed with were * This essay reminded me of/ made me think of * This essay made me think in a new way * This essay was similar to another essay |  |
| What question (s) would you like to ask the author of this essay? Explain your reasoning for wanting to have the answer to this question. |  |
| Having now read this essay I… |  |
| **Presenters Only:** You will need to have three (3) questions that you would like to present to your classmates during your seminar. |  |

The time I completed reading and marking this assignment was: