

Part I: Passage Analysis

Read the following passage from Horace, a Roman poet and consider what it says about adversity and talent.

“Adversity has the effect of eliciting talents which in prosperous circumstances would have lain dormant.”

Answer the following questions about the passage:

1. Define “adversity”:
2. Define “elicit”:
3. Define “prosperous”.
4. Define “lain”.
5. Define “dormant”.
6. Restate in YOUR OWN WORDS what Horace is saying about adversity and talents in this passage:

Part II - Decoding the Prompt:

Essay Prompt:

Write a well-developed essay in which you briefly paraphrase Horace’s statement and then take a position on how his view of the relationship between adversity and talents is seen today. Keep in mind that talents can apply to a person’s character as well as what they are able to do. Support your argument with your observations, experiences, and readings.

1. What are the THREE things you must accomplish in your essay?
2. State your position on this prompt in Toulmin format (Although....it is actually true that....):

3. State two claims to support your thesis. You may help each other on this. Remember claims are TRUTHS that must be proven to make your thesis true. They must relate back to the thesis, BUT should not include the evidence yet. Use the sample essays that you highlighted to help you with this.

4. Complete the charts below for EACH claim:

Evidence/Examples/Support (be specific)	Inferences made from the evidence	Argument developed using the evidence and inferences. This part must BOTH make the claim true and support the thesis.

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