

For your major grade on this unit, submit a paper of no less than 750 words (not including Works Cited) in response to one of the prompts below. You may cite outside sources in support of your claims, but your paper should primarily reflect your own analysis and interpretation of the text. If you do use outside sources, use books and/or authored articles and criticism found in scholarly journals, not general websites. A good starting point to find legitimate criticism is <http://www.scdiscus.org>. Avoid consulting sites like Sparknotes, etc.

Formatting requirements: Times New Roman 12, 1" margins, double-spaced, MLA style. For information about MLA guidelines, see the Purdue Owl link in the *Bedroom*.

The due date will be announced in class and posted by Gregor in the *Bedroom*. Papers must be printed, stapled, and submitted in class. Please do not e-mail your paper unless you are absent on the due date. Late papers will not be accepted.

Prompts:

1. The Samsa family has been charged with causing the wrongful death of Gregor and you are the judge at the trial. Summarize both lawyers' closing arguments, then render your opinion.
2. In *The Metamorphosis*, Kafka leaves a lot unexplained. Does this sense of ambiguity add or subtract from the story's power? Explain.
3. What evidence suggests that Kafka is making a statement about the dehumanizing effects of work in *The Metamorphosis*? Is there a counter-argument?
4. You are Gregor's psychiatrist; write the official report of Gregor's case, after Gregor's death. Assume that you know everything the reader knows about Gregor prior to and following his transformation, as revealed in the text.
5. How does Gregor's loss of language affect his ability to gain control over his life and ultimately his fate?
6. Choose a recurring idea or image in the story (commonly called a motif) and explore its significance to possible interpretations of *The Metamorphosis*.
7. As the story progresses, Gregor seems to become more human (or at least more humane) than his human family. Does Gregor actually sacrifice himself for their sakes?