

AP® Literature & Composition
The Death of Ivan Ilych by Leo Tolstoy
Essay

Reflect upon Ivan Ilych's life and death then compose a 1000-word essay (no more than 1100 words and no less than 900 words) that addresses the following prompt. Do not write with redundancy. Be sure to support your view from valid and convincing evidence. Although you will be taking a stand and sharing your opinion, be sure that your stance is well supported. Make reference to lecture points when applicable. Be sure to follow APA formatting for this essay.

Like many people in adverse circumstances, Ivan Ilych wants to know why he has been afflicted with his illness, what he has done to deserve this cruel fate. Does Tolstoy, in fact, suggest that there is any cause-and-effect relationship, that his illness is in any way a punishment for the way he has lived? If not, what is the larger thematic function of his illness and suffering?