

Sample AP Lang Rhetorical Analysis Essay Prompt (Fictional):

Read the following passage from a fictional novel titled "The City at Dawn" (Author: J. Smith, 2023). In a well-organized essay, analyze how the author uses language and rhetorical strategies to depict the theme of urban isolation and anonymity in the cityscape.

Passage:

[Excerpt from "The City at Dawn"]

As the sun rises over the towering skyscrapers, the city awakens with a collective sigh. Yet, amidst the bustling streets and crowded sidewalks, each individual is enveloped in a cocoon of solitude. Faces hidden behind newspapers and headphones, strangers pass one another with a fleeting glance. In this urban labyrinth, anonymity is both a refuge and a burden, a reminder that, despite the crowd, one can be utterly alone.

Essay Prompt Commentary:

This fictional prompt asks you to analyze how the author uses language and rhetorical strategies to convey the theme of urban isolation and anonymity. Your essay should focus on identifying and discussing the specific rhetorical devices and language choices that contribute to the depiction of these themes in the passage.