

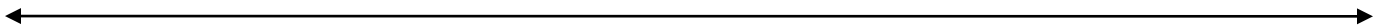
## Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition Analysis of August Wilson's *Fences*

Directions: Answer the following questions, using additional pages certainly, and provide specific evidence from the play to support your ideas.

- Note the setting details through the play's nine scenes. When and in what ways does the setting transform? Analyze how the change in setting relates to the change in the tone of the play and the attitude/emotions of the characters.

	setting transformation	change in tone/attitude
<i>scenes from Act 1</i>		
<i>scenes from Act 2</i>		

- Construct a chronological biography of Troy Maxson and a timeline for his life. What reasons does Troy have for summarizing his past at various points in the play?



- Discuss Troy's relationships with other characters, focusing on the conflicts and connections that make these relationships complex.

	Conflict(s)	Connection(s)
Rose		
Bono		
Lyons		
Gabriel		

- Define the conflicts and connections between Cory and Troy, showing how they develop. In what ways do they resemble those between Troy and his own father?

	Conflict(s)	Connection(s)
Cory		
Troy's father		

- Explore the various meanings of the title, on its literal and figurative levels. Describe the literal fence Troy is building, including its supposed purposes and Troy's reasons for constructing it. On the figurative level, what obstacles has Troy faced and overcome? How have Troy's triumphs over various fences proved ironic, bringing him grief rather than happiness?
- Examine how Troy serves as a tragic figure in the play. Reference Aristotle's definition of tragedy established in *The Poetics*, and consider the ideas about tragic figures asserted by Hegel, Nietzsche, and/or Frye.
- What universal themes are conveyed within what seems—on the surface—to be the restricted, specific milieu of African-American urban life in the late fifties? Use the theme statement template to construct at least two different interpretations of the play's meaning.