

Choose one of the following writing prompts and explain fully, with text evidence, the one that you have chosen. (DUE THURSDAY)

1. In his note to Pony, Johnny wrote “I don’t mind dying now. It’s worth it. It’s worth saving those kids. Their lives are worth more than mine, they have more to live for” (178). Do you think Pony agreed with him about the value of their lives?
2. Pony thinks “...in his hard face there was character, pride, and a savage defiance of the world...It would be a miracle if Dally loved anything. The fight for self-preservation has hardened him beyond caring” (59). Yet when Dally visits Pony and Johnny in Windrixville, Pony hears a different side of Dally. “ ‘Johnny,’ Dally said in a pleading, high voice, ‘...I just don’t want you to get hurt. You don’t know what a few months in jail can do to you...you get hardened in jail. I don’t want that to happen to you. Like it happened to me...’ ” (89-90) What do these quotes reveal about Dally’s character? Which side of Dally do you think is more important?
3. After the Socs attack Ponyboy at the beginning of the novel, he thinks, "I had just as much right to use the streets as the Socs did, and Johnny had never hurt them. Why did the Socs hate us so much?" (16-17). Answer Ponyboy’s question. Why do the Socs hate the greasers so much?
4. S.E. Hinton wrote *The Outsiders* when she was only 15. In an interview, she said, “Every teenager feels that adults have no idea what's going on. That's exactly the way I felt when I wrote *The Outsiders*. Even today, the concept of the in-group and the out-group remains the same. The uniforms change, and the names of the groups change, but kids really grasp how similar their situations are to Ponyboy's.” Do you think this is true? In your answer, describe a situation today, either your own experience or the experience of someone you know, that is either similar to or different from a situation one of the characters faced in *The Outsiders*.
5. Because of their life circumstances, many characters in the novel have lost their innocence. Which character is the best example of someone who has lost his/her innocence?