

\*\*\*\*\*Outstanding Essay\*\*\*\*\*

The Fountainhead  
By Ayn Rand

Ayn Rand's "The Fountainhead" is a celebration of man's capacity to commit to the creation of beautiful things, reason out the everyday phenomenon of life, and be the owner of one's individual self. Rand denies the disease of socialism or any system that denies the human person to achieve his or her great potential. She uses the art of architecture, modern vs. the more classical forms, to create a society dictated by the common opinion, the general, accepted rules, and a character so enamored by his personal, individual, and unconventional love for aesthetic buildings, that he is labeled an outcast, a mad man, anti-human. This character, Howard Roark, is ironically the epitome of the greatest human, a man that does not live to serve the societal system, but serving mankind through living to satisfy his passions and not the passions of others. While many would find him offensive and an enemy of the people, I believe him to be an individual that pursues everything that means to be human. Humans use reason to survive our world, but when they resort to peer opinion in order to reason out their ways to survive, they lose the fundamental light of human greatness. Roark is a man that is needed today in politics, religion, the workplace, and the household. When Roarks are born in today's society, human beings are allowed to evolve into the men they were born to be and the demigods tomorrow brings them to be. In an era of environmental demise and savage civil wars, we need a Howard Roark to build a society of thinkers, believers, and lovers of the human spirit, instead of borders of soldiers keeping humanity silent with fear.

Essay/Book Review by  
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