

(800-900 words)

Kierkegaard and Sartre are in close dialogue when it comes to understanding anxiety as a window into a human being's sense of freedom as she faces the future. But they approach the issue from different literary contexts and in different eras. Kierkegaard writes in the early 1800s to an audience familiar with the Bible and theological terms, while Sartre, writing in the mid-1900s to a secularized audience, uses anecdotes from everyday life. In this essay, discuss the way Kierkegaard uses the Adam story to explore human freedom. Remember to explain the meaning of a few terms such as God's command not to the fruit, the fall into knowledge of good and evil, sin, repentance, faith, etc. Then discuss some of Sartre's use of everyday examples of anxiety (for instance, the hike along a cliff, or the gambler). Finally, add a short closing section that discusses how these two different approaches, one theological and one secular, point to a similar human experience.

*****Important***** To support your case, quote a few lines from the texts themselves, and remember to include references to the page numbers. References can look like this: (CA, 51), (BN, 44), (Obsieger, 1).

Here are some things your reader will look for:

- * Clear language. (Write in everyday language so that both you and your reader know exactly what you mean. Imagine a non-specialist audience, like your roommate or your mother.)
- * A clearly defined thesis statement at the outset. What do you want to show? (I recommend literally writing, "In this paper, I will show...").
- * A simple, logical organization (one idea leads to the next).
- * A detailed presentation that shows a close reading of the texts.
- * Independence. (The essay should be written in your own voice. The material should be controlled by you, the author.)