*A Doll House*: Writing Response for Act I and Act II

Answer all of the following questions. Submit your responses in one continuous document to www.turnitin.com by 1:00 PM on January 20. It will take time to read Acts I and II, so plan ahead for the time it will take to read and write thoughtfully about the following questions.

Long Answer

Answer the following question in a response of at least 500 words with ample examples and evidence. Your answers will be graded based on how well they address the question asked, and your writing style; correct spelling and grammar always count.

The philosopher Francis Fergusson found that a play such as *A Doll House* shows us the main character going through three distinct phases: purpose, passion, and perception.

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| *Fergusson’s term for the cyclical phase* | **Purpose** | **Passion** | **Perception** |
| *Hero’s tragic pattern* | Hero at the highest point of achievement | Hero at lowest point | Hero, enlightened, accepts suffering |
| *Part of dramatic struggle* | Prologue or beginning | In battle | Epiphany |

In the beginning of Act I, Nora is in the phase of “purpose.” Identify what the text indicates as her purpose. What does Nora want? What has recently happened that has put her in a good mood, and feeling like she’s made achievements? Be specific. Find lines of dialogue in the play that support your ideas.

As Act I and Act II develop, we see Nora transitioning into the phase of “passion.” What obstacles interfere with her purpose? Be specific.

[Notice the metaphor of *poison* as it runs through Acts I and II. You don’t need to analyze this metaphor as yet, but note how it’s making its way through the poetic language of the play.]