

Essay Rubric

Name: _____

A. Essay Structure: 1 2 3 4 5 6

Introductory paragraph:

- 1. Smoothly transitions from attention grabber to main idea of thesis
- 2. Thesis statement is a focused argument and is clearly stated
- 3. Introduction mentions all relevant sources of evidence and factual information (i.e. the novel and its author)
- 4. Introduction does a good job of setting up the paper as a whole

Body paragraphs:

- 5. Topic sentences are clear explanations of what evidence will be used and how it will support the thesis
- 6. Topic sentence connects back to thesis – includes purpose (so what)
- 7. Uses well selected quotes as required for the assignment from the text that directly supports the thesis

Conclusion

- 8. Concludes point and avoids introducing any new ideas

Percentage of Final Score: _____

B. Essay Content: 1 2 3 4 5 6

Introductory paragraph:

- 1. Captures the reader’s attention by using a relevant attention grabber, lead-in or hook
- 2. Thesis has purpose (so what?), makes an argument (what), and explains how it will be proved (how)

Body paragraph:

- 3. Provides adequate background information and context for an uninformed reader to be able to understand the evidence
- 4. Provides analysis that explains the quote and sets it up for interpretation
- 5. Provides interpretation of how evidence directly supports the thesis
- 6. Convinces reader that interpretation is reasonable and accurate

Conclusion:

- 7. Reaches a new insight (revisit “so what?” with more depth)
- 8. Revisits the main idea of the thesis without restating it

Percentage of Final Score: _____

C. Language and Grammar: 1 2 3 4 5 6

Skills & Mechanics:

- 1. Eliminates spelling/wrong word errors. Evidence of spell check/revision
- 2. Uses a consistent verb tense
- 3. Eliminates personal pronouns (“I,” “me,” etc.)
- 4. Grammar/Punctuation errors are minimized
- 5. Contractions eliminated
- 6. Quoted references are cited and punctuated correctly
- 7. Essay is organized and contains smooth transitions between ideas, quotes, and paragraphs
- 8. Chosen language is appropriate, clear and easy to understand

Percentage of Final Score: _____

D. Follows Directions: 1 2 3 4 5 6

Basic Requirements:

- 1. Correctly uses MLA document formatting
- 2. Directly Answers the question posed
- 3. Meets paragraph/words/page requirements

Personal Growth:

- 4. Achieves growth goal from previous essay

Personal Goal for This Essay: _____

Percentage of Final Score: _____

Comments:

Essay Planner(s): _____
Rough Draft: _____



6
Exceptional
100+

5
Advanced
90-100

4
Proficient
80-89

3
Developing
70-79

2
Limited
60-69

1
Minimal
59 or less

Final Draft:



Total Score
