

## Literary Essay Rubric

|  | 4  | 3   | 2   | 1   |
|--|--|---|---|---|
| <b>Thesis</b>                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>My thesis is a thoughtful and clear argument, which makes a unique claim about the novel.</li> <li>Acknowledges a counterclaim</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>My thesis is a thoughtful argument that makes an interesting claim about the novel.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>My thesis is an argument that may be unoriginal, or too simple.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>My thesis is not an argument or it is not related to my novel.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Structure of Essay</b>                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>My introduction clearly includes a short summary, my theories and my thesis.</li> <li>My body paragraphs each have a main idea/topic sentence</li> <li>My conclusion clearly summarizes my argument and makes a link/connection to other texts or ideas.</li> </ul>             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>My introduction mostly includes a short summary, my theories and my thesis.</li> <li>Most of my body paragraphs have a main idea/topic sentence.</li> <li>My conclusion summarizes my argument and tries to make a link/connection to other texts or ideas.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>My introduction may include a short summary, my theories and my thesis, but not all of them.</li> <li>Some body paragraphs have a main idea/topic sentence.</li> <li>My conclusion almost summarizes my argument, though it fails to make a connection or there are "loose ends."</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>My introduction may not include a short summary, my theories and my thesis.</li> <li>Few or none of my body paragraphs have a main idea/topic sentence.</li> <li>My conclusion does not summarize my argument or brings up new ideas without explanation.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Evidence</b>                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each paragraph clearly supports my thesis.</li> <li>My body paragraphs each have 2 or more relevant examples/quotes to support my argument and an analysis/interpretation of how they support it.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each paragraph seems to support my thesis.</li> <li>Most of my body paragraphs include 2 relevant examples/quotes to support my argument and an explanation of how they support it.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each paragraph may support my thesis, though not clearly.</li> <li>My body paragraphs include fewer than 2 examples or quotes to support my argument or they do not explain how the evidence supports it.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>My paragraphs do not support my thesis.</li> <li>My body paragraphs do not clearly include evidence or the evidence is not relevant to the thesis.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Overall Cohesion &amp; Thoughtfulness</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overall, my essay clearly communicates my thinking about the text and why the issues raised are important.</li> <li>My essay shows insight into why those examples chosen are significant.</li> <li>My whole essay flows smoothly with transitions between thoughts.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overall, my essay communicates my thinking about the text and why the issues raised are important.</li> <li>My essay shows why those examples chosen are significant.</li> <li>My essay flows well with transitions between paragraphs.</li> </ul>                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>My essay attempts to communicate my thinking about the text but fails to address why the issues raised are important.</li> <li>My essay attempts to show why those examples chosen are significant.</li> <li>My essay is choppy. The sections feel separate and do not flow well.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>My essay does not demonstrate my thinking about issues in the text.</li> <li>My examples are mainly re-tellings of parts of the story</li> <li>My essay is choppy. The sections feel separate and do not flow.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Grammar and Editing</b>                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>My final draft had less than 3 errors in spelling, grammar, or punctuation.</li> <li>I kept my tense consistent throughout the essay.</li> <li>Used MLA citation format for quotes.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>My final draft had between 3 to 6 errors in spelling, grammar, or punctuation.</li> <li>I kept my tense mostly consistent throughout the essay.</li> <li>Used some aspect of MLA citation for quotes.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>My final draft had more than 6 errors in spelling, grammar, or punctuation.</li> <li>I had some errors in tense consistency.</li> <li>Used one aspect of MLA citations for quotes.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>My final draft had many more than 6 errors in spelling, grammar, or punctuation.</li> <li>I had many errors in tense consistency.</li> <li>Didn't use MLA citation for quotes.</li> </ul>  |