

Literary Essay Rubric

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