

Literary Analysis Essay Rubric

NAME _____

CATEGORY	Demonstrates Excellence 36-35 33-	32	Meets Expectations 30-29 27-	28	Approaches Expectations 26 2	5	Needs Work 24
Ideas	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Fully focused on topic•Fully developed controlling idea that clearly establishes the writer’s point•Relevant and fully developed supporting ideas•Engaging presentation of information throughout		<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Consistently focused on topic•Well-developed controlling idea addresses the writer’s point•Relevant and consistently developed supporting ideas•Adequately engaging information		<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Sufficiently focused on topic•Sufficiently developed controlling idea•Some relevant and developed supporting ideas•Some engaging information		<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Minimally focused on topic•Minimally or insufficiently developed controlling idea•Some irrelevant, vague, or overly general supporting ideas•Lacks sufficient engagement•Insufficient writing to determine competence
	161	5	141	3	121	1	10.5
Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Organization is wholly appropriate to writer’s purpose•Logical and appropriate sequence of ideas•Related ideas grouped appropriately		<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Overall organization appropriate to writer’s purpose•Appropriate sequence of ideas•Related ideas grouped in paragraphs		<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Overall organization is generally appropriate to writer’s purpose•Clear sequence of ideas•Majority of related ideas grouped in paragraphs		<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Organizing strategy is formulaic unclear or inappropriate•Minimal evidence of sequencing•Some unrelated ideas grouped in paragraphs•Insufficient writing to determine competence
	161	5	141	3	121	1	10.5
Style	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Well crafted writing that creates a sustained tone•Varied, precise, and engaging language appropriate to writer’s purpose•Fully developed and engaging writer’s voice•Extensive sentence variety		<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Language and tone enhance writer’s purpose•Word choice is precise and engaging•Consistent and distinctive voice•Sentences vary in length and structure		<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Language and tone are appropriate to writer’s purpose•Word choice is generally interesting with occasional lapses•Writer’s voice is clear and appropriate•Some variation in sentence length and structure		<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Language and tone are uneven•Word choice is simple, ordinary, imprecise and/ or repetitive•Minimal, inconsistent, or indistinct voice•Minimal or no variation in sentence length and structure•Insufficient writing to determine competence
	161	5	141	3	121	1	10.5
Documentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Essay includes the required primary and secondary sources•In-text citations follow MLA guidelines perfectly•The list of works cited follows MLA guidelines perfectly		<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Essay includes the required primary and secondary sources•In-text citations mostly follow MLA guidelines•The list of works cited mostly follows MLA guidelines		<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Essay does not include all of the required sources•In-text citations follow MLA guidelines to some degree•The list of works cited follows MLA guidelines to some degree		<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Essay does not include required sources•In-text citations are missing or do not follow MLA guidelines•The list of works cited is missing or does not follow MLA guidelines
	161	5	141	3	121	1	10.5
Conventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Essay follows all guidelines for document format•Sustained clarity of meaning at the sentence level•All elements of usage are consistently correct•All elements of mechanics are consistently correct•Infrequent, if any, errors		<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Essay follows most guidelines for document format•Consistent clarity of meaning at the sentence level•Most elements of usage are consistently correct•Most elements of mechanics are consistently correct•Errors are generally minor and do not interfere with meaning		<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Essay follows some guidelines for document format•Sentence level meaning is generally clear•Usage is generally correct•Mechanics are generally correct•A few errors interfere with meaning		<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Essay follows few or none of the guidelines for document format•Sentence level meaning is not consistently clear•May contain frequent or severe errors in usage•May contain frequent or severe errors in mechanics•Errors may interfere with meaning

Literary Analysis Essay – Checklist & Self-Evaluation

NAME _____

I am responding to this prompt in my essay: _____

☐ My essay responds **thoroughly** to **all** aspects of the prompt.

My essay includes **all** required elements:

☐ A thesis that clearly states my response to the prompt and serves as the controlling idea for the essay

☐ Topic sentences that focus my paragraphs and support my thesis

☐ Evidence that supports my ideas – from the story

☐ Evidence that supports my ideas – from a secondary source (or sources)

☐ A conclusion that connects the theme of my story to life or another work of art

☐ In-text citations that document the sources of my evidence

☐ A list of works cited to share my sources

Notes on Conventions

Authors, Works, Citations

- Capitalize all proper nouns (people's names and place names).
- Capitalize all words in the title of a work (including the title of your essay) except articles, conjunctions, and prepositions.
- Italicize or underline the titles of long works—such as books, newspapers, websites, movies.
- Put shorter works in quotations marks—short stories, poems, articles, essays, web pages, TV episodes.
- Parenthetical citations go between the closing quotation mark and the period.

What makes a sentence?

- A sentence has a subject (the doer or topic), a verb (the action or judgment), and it expresses a complete thought. All independent clauses can make sense by themselves!
- Place a comma before a conjunction that joins two independent clauses.
- Place commas after introductory phrases or clauses.
- Use a semicolon to join two closely related sentences.
- Vary your sentence structures to make your writing livelier.