

***Siddhartha* In-Class Essay Rubric**

The score reflects the quality of the essay as a whole — its content, style, and mechanics. **Students are rewarded for what they do well.** The score for an exceptionally well-written essay may be raised by 1 point above the otherwise appropriate score. In no case may a poorly written essay (an essay rife with distracting mechanical errors such as flawed grammar, usage, spelling, punctuation, etc.) be scored higher than a 3.

9–8 ... These essays offer a well-focused and persuasive analysis of a single pivotal moment in the psychological or moral development of *Siddhartha* and how that single moment shapes the meaning of the novel as a whole. Using apt and specific textual support, these essays analyze how the pivotal moment shapes the entire novel. Although these essays may not be error-free, they make a strong case for their interpretation and discuss *Siddhartha* with significant insight and understanding. Essays scored a 9 reveal more sophisticated analysis and more effective control of language than do essays scored 8. An 8 for this essay will earn **100%**; a 9 will earn **110%**.

7–6 ... These essays offer a reasonable analysis of a single pivotal moment in the psychological or moral development of *Siddhartha* and how that single moment shapes the meaning of the novel as a whole. These essays analyze how the pivotal moment shapes the entire novel. While these essays show insight and understanding, their analysis is less thorough, less perceptive, and/or less specific in supporting detail than that of the 9–8 essays. Essays scored a 7 present better developed analysis and more consistent command of the elements of effective composition than do essays scored a 6. A 6 for this essay will earn **90%**; a 7 will earn **95%**.

5 ... These essays respond to the assigned task with a plausible reading, but they tend to be superficial or thinly developed in analysis. They often rely upon plot summary that contains some analysis, implicit or explicit. Although these essays display an attempt to analyze a single pivotal moment in the psychological or moral development of *Siddhartha* and how the pivotal moment shapes the novel as a whole, they may demonstrate a rather simplistic understanding and support from the text may be too general. While these essays demonstrate adequate control of language, they may be marred by surface errors. These essays are not as well-conceived, organized, or developed as 7–6 essays. A 5 on this essay will earn **80%**.

4–3 ... These lower-half essays fail to offer an adequate analysis of a single pivotal moment in the psychological or moral development of *Siddhartha* and how that pivotal moment shapes the novel as a whole. The analysis may be partial, unsupported, or irrelevant, and the essays may reflect an incomplete or oversimplified understanding of the pivotal moment. They may not develop an analysis of the significance of the pivotal moment for the novel as a whole, or they may rely on plot summary alone. These essays may be characterized by an unfocused or repetitive presentation of ideas, an absence of textual support, or an accumulation of errors; they may lack control over the elements of college-level composition. Essays scored a 3 may contain significant misreading, demonstrate inept writing, or do both. A 4 on this essay will earn **70%**; a 3 will earn **60%**.

2–1 ... Although these essays make some attempt to respond to the prompt, they compound the weaknesses of the papers in the 4–3 score range. Often, they are unacceptably brief or incoherent in presenting their ideas. They may be poorly written on several counts and contain distracting errors in grammar and mechanics. Remarks may be presented with little clarity, organization, or supporting evidence. Essays scored a 1 contain little coherent discussion of the text. A 2 on this essay will earn **40%**; a 1 will earn **10%**.

0 ... These essays either give a response that is completely off topic or inadequate, contain only some mark or a drawing or a brief reference to the task, or are entirely blank. A 0 on this essay will earn **0%**.