

WHOLE-WORK
LITERARY ANALYSIS
ESSAY RUBRIC*
(a structural evaluation)



Essay must generally follow the plan presented on your outline to be scored.

B ▶ black & white typed
 O ▶ digital copy to Turnitin.com
 T ▶
 H ▶ color-coded hardcopy in class on the due date

ROW A	<p>There is an approved theme claim (highlighted yellow) in every paragraph (restated a different way each time) that presents a defensible interpretation of the literary work.</p> <hr/> <p>0 - Theme claim is present in only one paragraph and/or does not present a defensible claim of the work. 1 - Theme claim is missing in one or more paragraphs and/or is restated only two or three ways. 2 - Theme claim is present in all paragraphs and is restated in different wording each time.</p>	2
ROW B	<p>There are smoothly woven, parenthetically cited quotations present in the body paragraphs. (Quotations should be highlighted green; citations should be highlighted orange.) "() .</p> <hr/> <p>0 - None are present. 1 - Two or less are present. < 2 2 - Three, four, or five are present. 3-5 3 - Six or more are present. ≥ 6</p>	3
ROW C	<p>There is commentary (highlighted in pink) that analytically elaborates on textual evidence to explain the effects of the author's choices and how they serve to present a specific theme.</p> <hr/> <p>0 - Simply restates the thesis (if present) or offers information irrelevant to the argument of the thesis. 1 - Merely summarizes the plot/evidence but doesn't explain how that information supports the argument of the thesis. 2 - Commentary explains how some (but not all) of the evidence supports the argument of the thesis. 3 - Commentary consistently and convincingly explains how the evidence supports the argument of the thesis.</p>	3
ROW D	<p>There is an introduction paragraph that includes the underlined OR italicized title, the author's full name, and a two-sentence plot summary AND a conclusion paragraph that situates the subject matter of the essay in some broader context while justifying why the argument of the thesis matters. ↶ highlight all these PURPLE</p> <hr/> <p>0 - Only some - or none - of the criteria above are met. 1 - A reasonable attempt is made to situate the argument of the thesis in some meaningful context, and all of the criteria above are met.</p>	1
ROW E	<p>The essay is in FULL MLA format.</p> <hr/> <p>0 - The essay is not in full MLA format. 1 - The essay is in full MLA format.</p>	1
	<p>non-negotiable mechanical error penalties (-1 for each)</p>	-

For some potential BONUS credit, highlight **AUTHORIAL CHOICES** in BLUE; these should include the following: ① the author's last name, ② a fitting analytical verb from the handout, and ③ a specific feature/element of literary device.

* The teacher reserves the right to only use some of the rows of the rubric to produce a final essay score.

→ violently inconsistent verb tense
 → run-on sentences / comma splices
 → fragments (incomplete sentences)

TOTAL 10