

Name _____ Hour _____

| Theme Essay | 5 | 3 | 1 | Score 5-0 | Comments |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Ideas and Content | The writer focuses on one theme statement through the entire paper. Deep, powerful analysis of what is said in the book, how it creates meaning, and why it matters. Evidence from the text befits the theme, and careful analysis justifies it. | Writer focuses on one theme, though sometimes it is implied. Reader has to connect the dots between the theme and the conclusions. Writer demonstrates fair understanding of the book. Evidence from is usually befitting to the theme and analysis. | Writer does not focus on a theme. Weak understanding of the book. Evidence is not used to justify ideas in most body paragraphs. | | |
| Voice | Writer uses originality and a fresh perspective when presenting and explaining theme and analysis. The paper as a whole presents a unique analysis of a powerful theme. Reader is moved by the relevance of the theme. | Writer's voice fades in and out, sometimes strong sometimes weak. Main points are sometimes predictable or cliché. | Writer's voice is weak. Writer does not care about the topic. All main points are predictable and/or cliché. | | |
| Organization | The first paragraph contains a thesis statement that outlines main points and theme statement. The body paragraphs are driven by the thesis statement. A conclusion paragraph recaps the main points. | Thesis statement organizes paper, but the body paragraphs do not follow the organization. At times, paper does not follow a logical sequence of events. Conclusion does not recap main points. | No organization pattern. Vague thesis. No thesis. Details are not in a logical or expected order. Lack of organization distracts the reader. No conclusion. | | |
| Word Choice | Words chosen are always apt and purposeful. Writer discusses literary elements accurately. Words reflect a consistent tone appropriate for the theme.. | Some words may be misleading or vague. Some verbs may be weak. Writer may misunderstand or wrongly portray a literary element. | Consistently vague or confusing word choice. Writer avoids literary elements all together. | | |
| Sentence Fluency | A variety of sentences lengths and types are used. Flawless transitions between paragraphs. Evidence is incorporated into the paper seamlessly. Sentences flow. Sentences enhance the paper and help clarify ideas. | Attempt made at varying sentence types and lengths, but it is inconsistent. Effort made at transitions between paragraphs. Evidence is present but choppy or not embedded in some places. Sentences sometimes follow a pattern that distracts the reader. | Sentences are all the same type. No or misleading transitions. Evidence is not introduced with the writer's own words. Evidence does not flow with the rest of the paper. Reader cannot process information easily due to sentence structure. | | |
| Conventions | No distracting grammatical nor spelling errors. Length requirement is respected (3-5 pages). MLA formatting guidelines are followed. | Three or fewer grammatical or spelling errors distract from the text. Three or fewer minor errors in MLA format. | Four or more grammatical or spelling errors distract the reader from the text. Length requirement is disregarded. MLA format is disregarded. | | |
| Final Grade: | | | | /30 | % / 100 |

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