

Literary Analysis Rubric

The Exceptional Essay

- Excellent, specific thesis that fully responds to the prompt
- Thoroughly develops complex thesis with relevant body paragraphs that approach the text analytically
- Provides substantial, pertinent and specific evidence to develop thesis
- Clearly explains how the evidence illustrates and reinforces thesis
- Effectively integrates and cites textual evidence to support and develop thesis
- Free of plot summary that is not relevant to thesis
- Essay is imaginative and perceptive and shows insightful understanding of topic
- Provides a meaningful, reflective conclusion that articulates the significance of the topic
- Uses purposeful and varied sentence structure; creates cohesion through skillful use of transitional words and phrases
- Contains minimal to no errors in conventions (grammar, punctuation, spelling, usage, capitalization)

The Skilled Essay

- Intelligent and adequate thesis that addresses prompt
- Develops complex thesis with relevant body paragraphs
- Provides sufficient and relevant evidence to develop thesis and shows competent understanding of topic
- Sufficiently explains how the evidence illustrates and reinforces thesis
- Competently integrates and cites credible sources
- May have some plot summary that is not relevant to thesis
- Less maturity and control than the top essays; significantly less imagination
- Provides a conclusion that articulates the significance of the topic
- Uses correct and varied sentence structure; creates cohesion through transitional words and phrases
- Contains few, minor errors in conventions (grammar, punctuation, spelling, usage, capitalization)

The Proficient (Basic) Essay

- Thesis is too large or vague and generally addresses most of the prompt
- Superficially develops topic with relevant body paragraphs
- Provides limited and/or superficial evidence to develop thesis and shows superficial understanding of topic
- Explanation of how the evidence illustrates and reinforces thesis is vague and over-simplified
- Ineffectively integrates and cites credible sources
- Has some plot summary that is not relevant to thesis
- Displays simplistic and/or immature writing
- Provides a conclusion that merely repeats the thesis and articulates superficial significance of the topic
- Uses mostly correct and some varied sentence structure; creates some cohesion through basic use of transitional words and phrases
- Contains some errors in conventions (grammar, punctuation, spelling, usage, capitalization) which may cause confusion

The Developing (Below Basic) Essay

- Thesis is much too large and vague and fails in some way to address part of the prompt
- Inadequately develops complex thesis with minimal body paragraphs
- Provides minimal and/or irrelevant evidence to develop thesis and shows limited or flawed understanding of topic
- May base its analysis on some misreading of the text
- Analysis may be unpersuasive, perfunctory, underdeveloped, or misguided
- Incorrectly integrates and cites credible sources
- Provides a sense of closure but may weakly articulate significance of topic
- Uses limited and/or repetitive sentence structure; uses limited and/or inappropriate transitional words or phrases
- Contains numerous errors in conventions (grammar, punctuation, spelling, usage, capitalization) which cause some confusion

The Inadequate (Far Below Basic) Essay

- Thesis is unidentifiable and perhaps not present; essay does not address the prompt
- Fails to develop thesis with body paragraphs. Essay is an assortment of rambling generalizations.
- Provides inaccurate, little, or no evidence to develop thesis and shows no and/or inaccurate understanding of topic
- Does not use or cite sources
- Essay is merely a summary of the plot, not an analysis of an element or the work and/or the overall work itself
- Provides an inadequate conclusion or may omit conclusion
- In general, indicates a serious misreading of the text (or suggests the student did not read the text)
- Lacks sentence mastery (e.g. fragments, run-ons); uses few or no transitional words and phrases
- Contains serious and pervasive errors in conventions (grammar, punctuation, spelling, usage, capitalization)

Comments: