

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Checklist + Rubric –First Graded Draft / Summer Reading Essay

### (0-10) Focus: Clear thesis/ entire essay relevant to and supportive of thesis

- Thesis answers prompt clearly + precisely+ without any waffling/ thesis uses key words of prompt
- Topic sentences contain key words referring to required summer reading
- Body paragraphs maintain focus on the MSP of that paragraph
- Conclusion ties everything together and has rethesis / call to action consistent w thesis

### (0-10) Content: Includes enough relevant detail and analysis to support thesis and each topic sentence.

- Effective title
- Each MSP specifically relates to “required summer reading”
- Each body paragraph has 2-3 relevant supporting points (3 are best)
- Each point is supported persuasively with **relevant examples**
- Each point is supported with **logical analysis that ties it back to the MSP**
- All examples and arguments are presented in a way that the reader will easily understand them
- **Arguments are convincing and logical**
- All factual statements are accurate
- no repeats of ideas/ no irrelevant ideas

### (0-10) Organization:

- Expanded Introduction
  - **broad, easy-reading statement** to open/ hook is even better
  - includes **relevant background**
  - funnels down *smoothly* to thesis
  - concludes with **one sentence thesis** followed by **preview of support**
- Body paragraphs
  - Each begins with a **topic sentence** that is a general statement of the MSP of paragraph.
  - no overlaps in ideas
  - each has a smooth closing sentence
  - ideas are arranged in a logical order
  - clear closure sentence at end of each paragraph that **sums up** MSP for the reader
- Conclusion –
  - **echoes MSP's**
  - ends with **rethesis/ call to action**
  - smooth, not abrupt, adds closure
- Body paragraphs are all summarized/ covered by thesis statement
- Transitions – at start of 2<sup>nd</sup> + 3<sup>rd</sup> body paragraph, and within body paragraphs to link examples and to shift smoothly to new points within the paragraph (See *Handbook 20*)

### (0-10) Style: Smooth flow to sentences/ good word choice

Avoidance of

- unnecessary repetition of words
- empty, immature, vague, slangy words – see prompt packet
- use of first person (*I, me*) or second person (*you, your*) pronouns except in body paragraph examples
- announcements

### (0-10) Conventions:

- **no contractions (not MLA-worthy!)**/ follows Rules of Academic Writing handout
- no CCW errors
- MLA Format: heading, pagination, title – (cites and Works Cited page if we cover this)
- proofread/ no misspellings or missing words

### Miscellaneous (can add or lose points):

- on time? **rubric stapled to top of draft?** all drafts, outline, peer edit sheets in folder? apparent effort?
- comments and targets in outline + peer editor sheets are addressed