

Essay Exam Checklist/Rubric—Any errors in the bolded areas will result in a top grade of B-

➤ **READ THIS AND STAPLE IT TO THE TOP OF THE ESSAY.**

(0-20) Focus = *one clear, consistent position that anchors the essay/ all points clearly connected to thesis*

- Essay has a focused thesis statement that responds to the prompt**
- Thesis statement is followed by a preview of support**
- Every sentence in the essay relates to and supports the thesis statement
 - No irrelevant statements/ digressions
 - **All topic sentences are linked explicitly to the thesis statement (w/ key words)**
- Thesis is echoed in the conclusion

(0-20) Organization = *ideas presented in an order designed to facilitate clear understanding by the reader*

- Introduction funnels down smoothly to thesis with no gaps/ thesis and preview of support appear at end of introduction
- Each body paragraph has one non-overlapping MSP identified in topic sentence that explicitly links to thesis and sums up / covers the paragraph**
- Topic sentences are 1st or 2nd sentence in paragraph**
- Logical order to body paragraphs
- Logical order of ideas within body paragraph; ideas don't repeat or overlap
- Body paragraphs “wrap up” smoothly and with closure
- Uses *appropriate* transition words to connect body paragraphs
- Uses *appropriate* transition words to connect ideas within body paragraphs
- Smooth conclusion/ provides closure

(0-20) Content – *really says something meaningful that is explained, supported, and analyzed fully.*

- Engaging title
- Intro. paragraph is engaging, contains relevant background + explicitly mentions names of work and author
- The body paragraphs persuasively prove the assertion of the thesis.**
- Each topic sentence is supported by specific cited text proof** (3 examples are better than 2) & **analysis**
- Quotes are chosen to highlight key points/ minimum of 1 quote per body paragraph
- All statements about text are supported with cited examples**
- All text proof is explained to show how it is relevant to the MSP of the paragraph
- All statements are relevant to the thesis and MSP of paragraph
- Reasoning is logical & with enough development to be clear and persuasive
- All statements about text are accurate**
- No unnecessary repeats of ideas

(0-10) Style = *ideas are presented in a way that engages the reader → smooth, precise, concise, interesting*

- Clear / precise word choice/ concise/ avoid wordy phrasing
- Good flow to sentences/ no awkward constructions or rambling sentences
- No vague, repetitive, ambiguous pronouns
- Smooth quote weaving/ each quote has context/ foundation + analysis/ explanation of its significance

(0-20) Conventions/ Editing = *the essay applies the rules of formal academic writing*

- All grammar, punctuation, and usage rules covered in class are applied
- Quotes formatted and punctuated correctly
- No fragments, comma splices, run ons
- No 1st or 2nd person/ no slang / no contractions/ no faulty parallelism
- Appropriate & consistent verb tense- **USE PRESENT TENSE TO SUMMARIZE LITERATURE**
- Proofread/ correct spelling/ no missing words

(0-10) Compliance with the Writing Process

- Correct citation + MLA format/ heading/ spacing/ pagination/ in text citation
- Essay is submitted with evidence of pre-planning (as required by teacher)

➤ **ESSAY MUST BE SUBMITTED TO TURNITIN**

_____/100 Score