

9-Point Essay Rubric

- 7 - 9**
- Introduction moves from general to specific, shows understanding of the complexity of the topic.
 - Strong claim, clearly developed, analytical, and focused on the prompt.
 - Each paragraph is properly written with a strong topic sentence that supports the claim and with substantial relevant quotes from the work.
 - Quotes are set naturally into the narrative in all paragraphs.
 - Commentary analyzes and interprets and does *not* summarize.
 - Conclusion reviews the major points of evidence and the claim.
 - Is written in 3rd person and will contain few grammar and/or spelling errors.
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- 5 - 6**
- Introduction may contain "empty" sentences that chatter rather than actually introduce, may be disorganized.
 - Contains a claim that is vague or unfocused, one that may not clearly address the prompt.
 - Quotes from the work, but the quotes may not actually fit the point being made and may be improperly set into the narrative of the essay
 - Some commentary, though analysis will be light, mostly describes or summarizes.
 - Conclusion may fail to review major points of evidence and the claim.
 - Errors in sentence structure, informal voice, spelling, and/or grammar will be more serious and detract from the essay.
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- 2 - 4**
- Introduction may be short, incomplete, or may fail to properly introduce the material.
 - Claim will be simple, may merely mention parts of the prompt without addressing it.
 - Paragraphs are simple and undeveloped, lacking strong topic sentences and may be short and lacking commentary.
 - Quotes are merely mentioned, are poorly chosen, or are missing.
 - No analysis in body paragraphs; conclusion may be very short and incomplete.
 - Will have major spelling and/or grammatical errors; may be written in 1st or 2nd person voice.
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- 0 -1**
- Incompetent, inappropriate response.
 - May paraphrase the prompt.
 - Little understanding of the prompt.

Point equivalents for 20 and 15 point rubrics

20 point assignment		15 point assignment
20	9 = 100% A	15.0
18.4	8 = 92% A-	13.8
17.2	7 = 86% B	12.9
16.4	6 = 82% B-	12.3
15.2	5 = 76% C	11.4
14.4	4 = 72% C-	10.8
13.2	3 = 66% D	9.9
12.4	2 = 62% D-	9.3
11.2	1 = 56% F	8.4
0	0 = 0%	0

Period _____

Name _____

Instructions: Please read the following questions carefully, and **choose one**. Use this sheet to make notes and to organize your essay. Then staple this page to the front of your essay as its cover sheet. This essay is due at the end of the period and is worth 20 points.

Question 1

In some works of literature, a character who appears briefly, or does not appear at all, is a significant presence. Choose such a character from the novel *A Thousand Splendid Suns* and write an essay in which you show how the character functions and contributes to the meaning of the work. Avoid plot summary.

Question 2

Many novels and plays depict a conflict between a parent (or a parental figure) and a son or daughter. Using the novel *A Thousand Splendid Suns* write an essay in which you analyze the sources of the conflict and explain how the conflict contributes to the meaning of the work. Avoid plot summary.

**When a question asks you about how something contributes to the meaning of the work, it is asking you to describe how the author develops his/her theme. A theme is not simply the subject of a literary work, but rather a statement that the author/text seems to be making about that subject.

Note: Use all of the organizing and essay writing skills that you have learned. Start with a crystal clear claim/thesis. Make every paragraph count. You will be graded on how well you organize and write the essay and how well you demonstrate mastery of the novel by citing evidence from throughout the book. There is a copy of the essay rubric by which this will be graded on the back of this sheet.