

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.
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Point equivalents for 200 and 150 point rubrics

20 point assignment

20	9 = 100% A
18.4	8 = 92% A-
17.2	7 = 86% B
16.4	6 = 82% B-
15.2	5 = 76% C
14.4	4 = 72% C-
13.2	3 = 66% D
12.4	2 = 62% D-
11.2	1 = 56% F
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.

1. The conflict created when the dreams and desires of an individual oppose the structure or framework of society is a recurring theme of many novels, plays, and essays. Select a character from The House on Mango Street who is in opposition to his or her society. In a critical essay, analyze the conflict and discuss how the conflict reveals the meaning of the work. Avoid merely summarizing the plot of the book.

2. Obstacles in the lives of fictional characters often serve as a tool by which authors present statements about life and human nature. Select a specific character from Sandra Cisneros' book The House on Mango Street and in a well-organized essay analyze how that character's response to challenges develops one of the book's themes. Avoid merely summarizing the plot of the book.

Note: Use all of the organizing and essay writing skills that you have learned. Start with a crystal clear claim. 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 book by citing evidence from throughout the book. There is a copy of the rubric that will be used grade your essay on the back of this sheet.