

2018 Summer Reading Essay Instructions

ENGLISH IV HONORS

THE TASK:

For this essay, you will select an excerpt from your summer reading selection. Then, you will write an analytical essay that explores how the author uses **elements of language** (diction, imagery, details, language, and syntax) **to create meaning** (characterization, theme).

STEP ONE: Select an Excerpt

- Select an excerpt from your summer reading selection.
- Your excerpt should be about 350-800 words in length.
- Your chosen excerpt should be *rich for literary discussion* and should have *a clear connection to characterization and/or theme*. You will be analyzing this excerpt as a stand-alone passage, so there should be enough context in the passage that you can discuss the passage without needing to reference other details from the book.
- You *may* choose to use an extended version of one of the passages you selected for your Summer Reading Journal. Because you have already spent some time thinking about the passages in your journal, selecting one of those passages for your essay is ideal.
- Your passage *must be approved by me*. This will be a daily grade.
- If you are struggling to find a passage, you may request a passage from me. However, receiving a passage from me will cost you 30 points on your daily grade.

STEP TWO: Annotate Your Passage / Develop a Thesis

- Once your excerpt has been approved by me, you need to *thoroughly annotate* it with specific attention to the development of characterization and/or theme. Your annotations will help you determine the direction of your paper.
- After you annotate the passage, you will need to *develop a thesis statement*. I will provide you with support for developing your thesis. Because you do not have a specific prompt, it will be up to you to determine the focus of your essay (i.e., your thesis).

STEP THREE: Draft Your Essay

- We will work on drafting / essay organization in class. Your essay should be approximately three pages (~750 words) typed in 12pt Times New Roman font and double-spaced and should include a *thesis statement, body paragraphs, and a conclusion*.
- In addition to the class instruction on essay development, you may find additional resources for essays on my class website and on the Schoology course page.
- The **FIRST DRAFT** is due on **September 6**.
- **Submit your first draft to turnitin.com by 8am AND print three copies for class.**

STEP FOUR: Revise / Edit / Publish

- We will spend class time on peer reviews and writing conferences. This feedback will guide you through the revision of your paper.
- The **FINAL DRAFT** of your paper is due on **September 17**.
- **Submit your final draft to turnitin.com by 8am.**

Summer Reading Essay Rubric

Scoring Criteria	Not Yet The essay fell short of my expectations—not there yet!	Proficient The essay did everything that it was supposed to do.	Exemplary The essay exceeded expectations—awesome!
Thesis Statement	0-6 points	7-8 points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> One sentence <input type="checkbox"/> Provable response to the prompt <input type="checkbox"/> Provides TAG and idea about either theme or characterization to be developed throughout essay 	9-10 points
Topic & Summary Sentences	0-6 points	7-8 points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Topic sentences provide a specific focus (related to the thesis) for each body paragraph <input type="checkbox"/> Summary sentences conclude the paragraph and transition to the next paragraph 	9-10 points
Textual Evidence	0-14 points	15-17 points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant textual evidence that supports the writer’s claim (thesis) <input type="checkbox"/> Introduced and embedded (i.e., context is provided, speaker identified, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Parenthetical citations 	18-20 points
Development of Ideas	0-14 points	15-17 points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Commentary draws connections between textual evidence and thesis <input type="checkbox"/> There is more commentary (at least 2x) than textual evidence; for every one sentence of textual evidence, there is at least two sentences of commentary 	18-20 points
Organization	0-14 points	15-17 points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Has an introduction that includes thesis. <input type="checkbox"/> Sequences ideas logically <input type="checkbox"/> Uses transitions between ideas <input type="checkbox"/> Essay is balanced, giving equal time to each idea presented <input type="checkbox"/> Conclusion paragraph ends the essay without unnecessary repetition or presenting new information not discussed in the essay. 	18-20 points
Conventions	0-6 points	7-8 points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Few errors in grammar / conventions <input type="checkbox"/> Errors do not distract from readability 	9-10 points
MLA Format + Works Cited	0-8 points	9-10 points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 12 pt, Times New Roman <input type="checkbox"/> Double Spaced, Remove SAP <input type="checkbox"/> MLA Heading and Title on page 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Last name and page number in header <input type="checkbox"/> Works cited is ast page of the essay <input type="checkbox"/> Cited correctly (MLA 8th Ed.) <input type="checkbox"/> Citations are double spaced with hanging indention <input type="checkbox"/> If more than one, sources are in alphabetical order by the first word in the citation 	<i>There are no “exceeds expectations” points for formatting.</i>

Final Draft Rubric: This is a single-point rubric. The base score is range is 75-85 and represents the proficient completion of all standards for this assignment. Students may earn or lose points based on areas of the essay that are above or below expectations.