

## Essay Self Evaluation Rubric

### Introduction

- ☐ Did you begin with an interesting universal idea/hook?
- ☐ Did you link this idea to the sentences that follow it?
- ☐ Do you have a TAGY?
- ☐ Does your TAG come before you start discussing specifics from the work?
- ☐ Do you give brief context for your argument ([plot summary 1-3 sentences])?
- ☐ Does the context flow smoothly into your argument?
- ☐ Does your introduction preview what will appear in your body paragraphs?
- ☐ Do you end your intro with an argument (thesis!)?
- ☐ Does your argument outline what you will use in your body paragraphs as support?

### Body Paragraphs

- ☐ Does each body paragraph only discuss one main reason/point?
- ☐ Does each body paragraph have a **topic sentence** that makes an argument relative to the main point of the body paragraph?
- ☐ Do your topic sentences have key words from the prompt?
- ☐ Do your topic sentences have key words from your argument or thesis?
- ☐ Are your topic sentences analysis based, not just a statement of plot?
- ☐ Do you have at least 2 specific supporting examples in each body paragraph?
- ☐ Do your examples show that you read the work- using detail?
- ☐ Do all your examples relate to the topic sentence / prove the argument being made?
- ☐ Do you analyze your examples using language relating to your argument or theme?
- ☐ If quotations are required, do you have at least **TWO** in each paragraph?
- ☐ If quotations are required, are all of them correctly written and cited?
- ☐ If quotations are required, are they introduced in your own words (integrated)? Context!
- ☐ If quotations are required, are they explained in your own words? Commentary!  
(Remember: say/mean/matter)
- ☐ Does each body paragraph tie back to the thesis statement?
- ☐ Do you write through the work, beginning, middle, end?
- ☐ Does each body paragraph build on ideas presented in previous ones?

### Conclusion

- ☐ Do you restate your thesis?
- ☐ Do you summarize your main points?
- ☐ Do you nutshell your argument in a way that includes all the evidence you've shown?
- ☐ Do you find a unifying idea?
- ☐ Do you end with universal messages and commentary?
- ☐ Did you find a way to make your argument relevant to readers?

## Other

- ☐ Do you talk about the story in **present tense**?
- ☐ Is the essay in third person? (No I, me, my, mine)
- ☐ Did you maintain formal language throughout?
- ☐ Is your essay grammatically correct? Proofread for grammar issues such as fragments, run-ons, awkward wording, etc...
- ☐ Are you focused on your thesis, not on giving a summary of the story?
- ☐ Does everything in your essay relate to and support the thesis?
- ☐ Do you have a theme somewhere in your essay? Is the theme a full thought (not just one word)?
- ☐ Is your essay in the correct MLA format? ([MLA template guide](#))
- ☐ If required, did you include at least TWO quotations from an analysis article?
  - ☐ See [strategies](#) for using other sources in your own writing.