

Criteria	Above Standards	Meets Standards	Approaching Standards	Below Standards
Thesis Statement	10 pts Thesis is well defined and offers a sophisticated response to the question.	8 pts Thesis clearly answers the question and defines the argument.	7 pts Thesis somewhat clearly identifies the argument being made as a response to the question.	6 pts Thesis is not clearly defined and/or the question is not clearly being answered.
Analysis of the Topic	20 pts Persuasive analysis that addresses all parts of the question; analysis demonstrates a thorough understanding of the works and their terms.	16 pts Good analysis that addresses most parts of the question; analysis demonstrates understanding of all sides of a question though it may be unevenly developed.	14 pts Analysis addresses most parts of the question; analysis is adequate but unevenly developed.	12 pts Descriptive rather than analytical; marginally related to the topic; significant logical gaps.
Use of Literary Terms	20 pts Thorough grasp of the literary terms introduced in the question.	16 pts Good grasp of the literary terms introduced in the question.	14 pts Some grasp of the literary terms introduced in the question.	12 pts Little grasp of the literary terms introduced in the question.
Close Readings	20 pts Many specific examples of	16 pts Many specific examples of	14 pts Some specific examples of	12 pts Few specific examples of

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	close readings of the texts demonstrate a sophisticated understanding of the works and their terms.	close readings of the texts demonstrate a solid understanding of the works and their terms.	close readings of the texts demonstrate some understanding of the works and their terms.	close readings of the texts demonstrate a weak understanding of the works and their terms.
Sequencing of Ideas	20 pts Extremely well organized, with a clear introduction, argument, and conclusion.	16 pts Well organized, with an introduction, argument, and conclusion.	14 pts Contains at least two of the following: introduction, argument, and conclusion; organization may be somewhat unclear.	12 pts Poorly organized; no clear introduction, argument, or conclusion.
Sentence Coherence & Language Use	10 pts Well written in appropriate standard English; few grammatical errors, spelling errors, or misused terms may remain due to time constraints.	8 pts Clearly written in appropriate standard English; some grammatical errors, spelling errors, or misused terms may remain due to time constraints.	7 pts Contains numerous grammatical errors, spelling errors, or inappropriate use of terms, but the essay is somewhat coherent.	6 pts Consistent pattern of grammatical errors, spelling errors, or inappropriate use of terms.