

Literature Essay Evaluation

The following feedback on your essay gives you an exact map of the areas you need to work on to improve your writing about literature, so please take the time to review it carefully. *Each part of your paper is rated on a scale of 1 to 5:*

1 = unacceptable 2 = needs a lot of work 3 = average 4 = good 5 = excellent

CONTENT

- _____ thesis/central idea is well developed, interesting, and meaningful
- _____ evidence of logical reasoning is present throughout the essay
- _____ evidence from the literary work(s) being discussed (including paraphrase and direct quotation) provides plenty of support for the writer's analysis
- _____ good balance between material derived from the original story/poem/play and the writer's interpretation or comments on the literary work (not too much retelling)
- _____ the paper is interesting and reflects the writer's understanding of the literary work(s), showing appreciation of the essential features of its content and form
- _____ **Total**

ORGANIZATION

- _____ introduction is well-developed and interesting, names titles and authors of works to be discussed, frames the focus of the paper
- _____ transitions (**TR**) provide smooth connections between paragraphs and ideas
- _____ clear and effective organization throughout the paper; a reader can easily follow the writer's ideas; good planning is evident
- _____ each aspect of the topic under consideration has been clearly developed (review suggested topic questions from your assignment sheet)
- _____ conclusion is well-developed and interesting; does not raise new issues that aren't present in the body of the paper, but reveals a deeper understanding of the literature than that which is presented in the introduction
- _____ **Total**

STYLE

- _____ vocabulary and tone suggest a scholarly perspective; literary terms are used appropriately
- _____ the writer's voice comes through the essay, capturing reader attention and interest
- _____ sentence structure is clear, effective, and varied
- _____ language/word choice is clear, thoughtful, and original—no use of clichés or overused expressions
- _____ overall style meets standards for college level analytical writing
- _____ **Total**

MECHANICS

- _____ punctuation
- _____ avoidance of sentence level/grammar errors: fragments (**F**) /run-ons (**ROS**)
- _____ spelling/typos
- _____ proper MLA documentation; correct use of quotations
- _____ careful proofreading is evident

____ **Total**

Credit: Mary Ertel, Medaille College