

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Literary Argument Rubric
Oct 2016

	Advanced (5) = 100 pts	Proficient (4) = 90pts	Basic (3) = 80 pts	Below (2) = 70 pts	Far Below (1) = 60pts
Theme (your thesis)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All that a 4 is + Insightful & original Focuses on the significance, far-reaching consequences or implications of the message Sophisticated language & sentence structure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writes a clear universal message (applying to most people) that expresses a connection between multiple topics and includes the conditions upon which the message is true Focuses on topics that are key subjects of the text & can be supported with thorough evidence from the text as a whole 	<p>Writes a message about a single topic that is a key subject of the text, but theme is simplistic, obvious or a cliché</p>	<p>Identifies a topic related to the text, but message . . .</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is about specific characters or events is unclear (ie. How to overcome obstacles growing up.) is not what most of the text is about Has minor misinterpretations of text 	<p>Writes a summary or fact about the text OR Has significant misunderstanding of text</p>
Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All parts of the essay work together to support the thesis/claim Has an engaging, original attention getter that connects to claim and a highly effective intro & conclusion Arranges arguments, reasons & evidence effectively and persuasively Uses words, phrases & sentences as transitions to link all parts of the text (ie. closing clinchers at the end of a paragraph which lead into the next) Topic sentences address areas of ambiguity in the text 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major parts of the essay work together to support the thesis / claim Has an attention-getter that connects to the claim and all necessary elements of an intro & conclusion Order of ideas is logical (ie. order of paragraphs & key points make sense) Uses a variety of transitions <i>within</i> each paragraph as well as writing as a whole Topic sentences are opinions & work together to fully address all parts of the claim 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contains all major parts of the essay with an overall structure that matches the thesis / claim Introduction and/or conclusion is simplistic or underdeveloped Uses simple transitions (To begin with, another, finally, etc.) primarily in topic sentences Topic sentences restate claim 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contains most parts of essay and attempts to group ideas that are related into separate paragraphs Lacks a clear beginning or ending Connection between ideas and topic sentence or thesis/ claim is not always clear Topic sentences only vaguely reference thesis /claim 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Missing key parts of essay No purposeful organization Topic sentences are facts <p>Must attempt at least 2 paragraphs to earn 60 pts.</p>
Evidence & Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All that a 4 is + Amount of evidence is thorough Includes only the most significant portion of the quotation Context is carefully chosen to support topic sentences & thesis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All parts of thesis/claim are supported with evidence Selects most critical part of the text as evidence to support topic sentences Evidence demonstrates understanding of text as a whole Evidence includes context that is relevant and necessary to understand quote 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A portion of thesis /claim is supported with evidence Evidence could be better chosen or is mostly from one part of the text Some relevant context is provided, but is incomplete 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence is not relevant or only loosely connects to topic sentences / thesis / claim Context is not included or missing critical information; repeats info already in the quote Minor confusion about the text 	<p>Does not include evidence OR has significant misunderstanding of the text</p>
Analysis / Commentary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All that a 4 is + Analysis is in depth and insightful Discusses multiple layers of meaning relevant to argument (ie. discusses more than one effect, how two different stylistic devices in the same quote work together) Identifies significance of the quote in relationship to the scene & text as a whole 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discusses <i>stylistic devices, patterns, inferences & connections between multiple parts of the text</i> which support the topic sentence Discusses specific words the author uses (connotations, compares to a similar word not used, etc.). Explains how these ideas connect to & add meaning to the scene they are in. Ties analysis back to topic sentence without repeating the same ideas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Points out stylistic devices and discusses specific words related to the stylistic device, but how these ideas connect to or add meaning to the scene they are in is unclear. Attempts to tie analysis back to topic sentence <i>without repeating ideas</i> but requires more explanation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focuses on literal meaning of the text; analysis is really a summary. Mostly repeats what is already in context, quote or topic sentence Discusses text in obvious ways Does not tie ideas back to topic sentence Has minor confusion about the text 	<p>Does not discuss evidence or has significant misunderstanding about the text</p>
Style, Language & Mechanics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses a formal style & tone; shows enthusiasm & interest in topic Precise and engaging choice of words Effective use of stylistic devices Meaningful variety in sentence structure (ie. rhetorical questions) Mostly error free 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses a formal style and tone Has appropriate and some variety in both vocabulary and sentence structure Has minor errors which can be easily corrected (ie. location of period inside quotes instead of after pg #) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inconsistent use of language, using generally appropriate vocabulary and some variety in sentence structure Has frequent errors but overall, do not interfere with reader's understanding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talks about self or parts of the essay Uses informal language, slang, abbreviations Vocabulary is simplistic & repetitive Sentence structure lacks variety Errors continuously interrupt reader's focus or cause confusion 	<p>Severe errors in sentence structure, spelling and word choice which make the essay very difficult to understand</p>

