

The following criteria will be used to grade American Lit essays: (pay attention to the foot notes as well)
Written Communication (50 points)

1. Organization and Formatting (20 points)

____(0-5) There appears to be little or no attempt at organization. No attempt is made to follow MLA format. No discernible thesis statement.

____(5-10) Essay is difficult to follow because of inadequate transitions or rambling and/or inconsistent MLA formatting. Has a discernible thesis but is not carried out through the essay.

____(11-15) Basic transitions and a structured format are used. MLA is generally followed. Has a discernible thesis and most topic sentences help carry the thesis through the essay.

____(16-20) Effective organization and transitions are used. MLA format is consistent. Has a clear thesis statement and topic statements succeed in carrying the thesis through the essay.

2. Mechanics and Grammar (30 points)

____(0-10) Notoriously poor grammar, spelling, syntax, and mechanics. ¹ Vocabulary is basic and unvaried, or words are inappropriately used. Use of many “blah” or “weak” words.

____(10-20) Grammar, spelling, syntax, and mechanics need improvement but are not notorious. Vocabulary is basic but words are not misused. Use of some “blah” or “weak” words.

____(21-25) Minimal spelling, syntax, grammatical and mechanical errors. Use of language is articulate and intelligent. Contains some active adjectives, colorful nouns and vivid verbs.

____(26-30) Writing is clear and no mechanical errors are present. Use of language is articulate and intelligent. Contains mostly active adjectives, colorful nouns and vivid verbs.

Content (50 points)

3. Proof of Claims-Evidence (25 points)²

____(0-10) Failed to efficiently prove your claim, or barely attempted to do so.

____(11-20) Some proof is used, but not efficiently and/or explanation is flawed. Commentary is used but not in a which sufficiently proves your claims.

____(21-25) All claims are efficiently proven, and interpretation and/or explanation is complete and concise. Commentary used correctly, and sufficiently proves your claim.

4. Completeness (25 points)

____(0-10) Prompt is not addressed or is addressed in a perfunctory way.

____(11-18) Attempted to answer the prompt, but provided few details.

____(19-22) Answered the prompt in some detail, but with some omissions as well.

____(23-25) Answered all parts of the prompt completely.

Checklist for Parents:

___ **I have edited this essay or composition assignment for the following:**

¹ This may result in a paper returned to you with a zero.

² Academic dishonesty (plagiarism, cheating) will result in a grade of zero for the essay and automatic probation for the first offense. A second offense results in expulsion from PEP.

Mrs. Workman
Essay Grading Rubric

- **Spelling errors**
- **Grammatical errors**
- **Punctuation error**

__My student has revised this work regarding the edits I made, and is turning in a semi-perfect, best-yet version of this paper.

Parent Signature