

Literary Essay Checklists

CHECKLIST ONE: ESSAY FORMAT

CRITERIA	YES	NO	INITIAL
INTRODUCTION			
Is there an effective hook – question, quote, anecdote, or statement which introduces the topic?			
Are important terms defined in your own words?			
Are the authors and titles of the works of literature given?			
Is any other background information given? (Summary of the work, where and when it was produced, etc.)			
Does the introduction end with a clearly worded thesis which includes a statement of opinion and three reasons?			
BODY OF THE ESSAY			
Does each of the body paragraphs have a clear <u>topic sentence</u> which refers back to the thesis and introduces the reason being developed?			
Is the evidence from the work of literature clear, specific, quoted correctly, and documented properly?			
Does each body paragraph end with a strong concluding sentence which connects the reason and the evidence with the thesis?			
CONCLUSION			
Is there a restatement of the thesis and the three reasons?			
Is there a brief discussion of the larger implications?			
Does the essay have an effective clincher?			

CHECKLIST TWO: ESSAY CONTENT

CRITERIA	YES	NO	INITIAL
INTRODUCTION			
Does the hook clearly illustrate the topic of the essay, as well as capture the reader's attention?			
Is the definition used clearly explained?			

Have you ordered the reasons in the thesis statement to get the maximum effect for your essay (weakest to the strongest)?			
BODY OF THE ESSAY			
Do you give specific, detailed examples as evidence in each of the three body paragraphs?			
Do you have at least three quotes (correctly documented) in each body paragraph?			
Does each body paragraph relate to and support the thesis?			
CONCLUSION			
Do your implications show what the reader can learn from this piece of literature?			
Does your clincher sentence say something important about the topic and maybe even come full circle to link up with the hook?			

CHECKLIST THREE: ESSAY STYLE

CRITERIA	YES	NO	INITIAL
Is the language in your essay academic and suitable for your audience?			
Are the references to the piece of literature written in the present tense?			
Is the sentence structure of the essay correct – no fragments, run-ons, or comma splices?			
Do you use connecting words or <u>transitions</u> to link the paragraphs in the essay?			
Did you choose your words carefully, avoiding unnecessary repetition and unclear language?			
Did you proofread for spelling errors?			
Do you have a proper title page?			
Do you use in-text citations correctly?			
Do you have a correct Works Cited page?			
Have you followed Quality Assignment Rules?			
ARE YOU PROUD OF YOUR FINISHED PRODUCT?			