

Rubric

	D paper	C paper	B paper	A paper
Thesis/ Argument	Thesis does not follow the required formula. Thesis does not address prompt, or there is no clear thesis.	Thesis is missing many elements of the required formula. The thesis is vague, unclear, or overly simple.	Thesis does not include all elements of the required. The thesis could be more clear and concise or more sophisticated.	Thesis includes all elements of the require formula. The thesis is clear, concise, focused, and compelling. The argument is specific and original.
Evidence	There are not enough quotes in the essay or they are not relevant to the prompt. They do not support claims made in essay. There are not enough ties introducing quotes with context. Quotes do not include proper MLA citations.	The essay is missing two quotes or two quotes are not relevant to the argument. Most quotes do not contain smoothly incorporated ties. Some quotes include proper MLA citations.	The essay is missing one quote or it is not relevant to the prompt. Author could have selected better quotes to support the argument. All quotes do not include smoothly incorporated ties that introduce the quote by acknowledging the speaker, the situation. Etc. Most quotes include proper MLA citations.	There are the required number of quotes in the essay, and they are all relevant to the prompt and carefully selected to support the essay's thesis. All quotes smoothly incorporate ties that introduce the quote by acknowledging the speaker, the situation, etc. All quotes include proper MLA citations.
Analysis	Essay uses summary rather than analysis, or essay does not include analysis that successfully addresses prompt or connects textual evidence to argument.	Analysis is vague, unoriginal, or overly simple. Essay includes too much summary. Every piece of textual evidence is not supported with analysis.	Essay demonstrates effective analytical skills but this analysis could be pushed further through further clarification or more in-depth analysis.	Essay demonstrates sophisticated analysis that is specific, clear, original, and thoroughly explained. Analysis displays insight, the ability to make connections and inferences, and the recognition of patterns. Analysis is unique.
Grammar/ Conventions	Contains many errors in conventions, grammar, and usage. The essay demonstrates poor understanding of semicolons, colons, and commas. Awkward phrasing makes essay hard to understand.	Contains several errors in conventions, grammar, and usage. The essay demonstrates little understanding of semicolons, colons, and commas. Essay is often phrased awkwardly.	Contains a few errors in conventions, grammar, and usage. The essay demonstrates some understanding of semicolons, colons, and commas. Essay includes a few moments of awkward phrasing.	Is essentially error-free in conventions, grammar, and usage. The essay demonstrates mastery of semicolons, colons, and commas. Essay contains a variety of sentence structures.
MLA Format	There are four or more formatting issues. Works Cited page contains many errors, or there is no works cited page.	There are two or three formatting issues. The Works Cited page contains some errors.	There is one formatting issue. Works Cited page contains a few errors.	Paper is double-spaced in Times New Roman, 12 point font, heading is in the top left corner with student name, teacher name, class, and date, header in right corner includes last name and page number. Paper includes 1 inch margins and the essay's title is centered and properly formatted (no underlining or bolding). The text title is properly formatted. There are no extra spaces between paragraphs. Works Cited Page follows MLA 8 rules.
Required Strategies	Essay does not include required writing strategies: FATt sentence, 3rd person, present tense, and brackets. Or writing strategies are not used properly/effectively.	Essay successfully incorporates some required writing strategies: FATt sentence, 3rd person, present tense, and brackets.	Essay successfully incorporates most required writing strategies: FATt sentence, 3rd person, present tense, and brackets. Strategies could be used more effectively.	Essay successfully incorporates all required writing strategies: FATt sentence, 3rd person, present tense, and brackets.

