

General Essay Objectives (Grading Criteria):

Intro:

- Creative, catchy title
- Engaging opening hook catches reader's attention
- A developed intro (not too short or long) gives an overview and gradually leads into the thesis
- The thesis is clear, easy-to-find, and makes an assertive, argumentative claim about the topic

Body Paragraphs:

- Have specific, easy-to-find topic sentence claims that clarify the main point of each body paragraph
- Have "paragraph unity," (each paragraph focuses on and develops one key point)
- Support ideas with sufficient, well-selected quotations and examples from the text
- Have quotations that aren't just listed as proof but are explored in an interesting way, drawing out implications from details, revealing ideas that might not be immediately obvious.
- Have smooth transitions within and between paragraphs

Conclusion:

- Avoid too much repetition; end on an effective note, perhaps emphasizing the significance/relevance of what the reader just read or perhaps giving the reader something more to consider.

MLA format:

- Accurate page format (margins, font, title, etc.). Use literary present tense.
- Accurate punctuation & "in-text" parenthetical citation with quotes. Give line numbers.
- A works cited page in MLA format. NO PLAGIARISM.

Language:

- Carefully proofread for punctuation, grammar, spelling, and effective word choice.