

Night-Before Checklist: Culminating Essay

Format:

- Did I staple the question and booklist to the front of my essay?
- Did I create a separate Works Cited page and staple it to the end of my essay?
- Did I include a proper MLA heading above my introductory paragraph, including a creative title?
- Did I place a header on each page with my last name and page number?
- Did I double space and use professional font?
- Did I cite each quote properly (McEwan 204), paying careful attention to punctuation?
- Are all cited sources included on my Works Cited page?

Content:

- Do I answer my question in a complex and logical way?
- Do I make clear connections between my beliefs and the texts?
- Are my textual references to characters and moments precise and meaningful?
- Do I avoid plot summary, for the most part?
- Do I allow specific quotes from texts to mingle with my words?
- Are my paragraphs logically organized, displaying larger patterns of thought?
- Does the essay culminate in earned insight, be it in terms of conclusive statement or further questions?

Style:

- Do I use a variety of sentence lengths and structures?
- Do I use precise diction to achieve clarity?
- Do I use the active voice?
- Do I avoid wordiness and repetition?
- Do I reveal my strong and unique writer's voice?