

2025-26 SENIOR ESSAY RUBRIC (Mrs. Newberry's Classes)

MLA FORMATTING • Proper MLA header; last name, and page number on each top right corner • Appropriate title (NOT Senior Paper or <i>Title of My Book</i> Essay) • Block quotations correctly formatted (double spaced, indented, no extra lines) • Times New Roman 12-point font, including title, header, and punctuation • 1-inch margins all around and ½-inch indents for each new paragraph • All double spaced with no extra spaces between lines or paragraphs	/10
CITATIONS • All sources properly cited to avoid inadvertent plagiarism * • In-text citations in proper MLA format • Works cited on a separate page, not included in word or page count • Works cited entries in alphabetical order in proper MLA format with hanging indents • Double-spaced only; no extra lines or spaces • Annotations are removed • Novel must also be cited • At least 6 sources listed, 5 of which must be academic (not blogs, GradeSaver, SparkNotes, etc.), plus novel	/10
CONTENT and EVIDENCE • Adequate length: 9 – 11 pages • Textual evidence/quotations used to support each point of argument • All quotations introduced and explained sufficiently (ICEE) • All points clearly relate to thesis statement • Sufficient inferential (<i>why, how, and so what</i>) details and explanations • Excellent quality and depth of analysis • Not too much plot summary (assume your reader is somewhat familiar with your text) • At least 6 sources used, 5 of which must be academic (not blogs, GradeSaver, SparkNotes, etc.), plus novel	/40
ORGANIZATION • Effective introduction with an engaging hook • Strong, concise, persuasive, and arguable thesis statement with any points in the same order as paper • Topic and “so what” concluding sentences are used for each paragraph • Clear, smooth transitions between paragraphs; logical flow • Conclusion significantly wraps up points and addresses the final “so what” of the paper • Overall easy to follow • No repetition, redundancy, or irrelevant tangents	/20
MECHANICS • Excellent spelling and grammar throughout • Proper source and sentence punctuation (novels, plays, and epic poems are in <i>italics</i>) • Careful word choice, proper usage • Complete, clear, and parallel sentences; clear syntax • Correct tense: literary present	/10
STYLE • Appropriate tone; confident but not arrogant • Style consistent throughout paper • Solid ethos evident; aware of image to readers • Formal style; no slang, contractions, first person or second person • No wordiness, repetition, vague pronouns, or blur words • X factor: pleasurable to read	/10

*Plagiarism may result in a zero for the paper.