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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Thesis** **& Argument** | **Clarity** | **Focus** | **Uniqueness** | **Complexity** | **Relevance** |
| How clear is the argument? Does the thesis give me a good overview of the paper’s argument?  | Does the thesis have a specific lens? Does the lens focus the argument on a specific aspect of the book? Does the thesis make the lens clear? | Does the thesis show us something new about the book? Does it say something we wouldn’t learn from a plot summary?  | Is the thesis making an argument, and not just an observation? Does it offer an in depth analysis? Does it explore complex connections between themes or ideas? | Does the argument presented in the thesis match the argument put forward by the rest of the paper? |
| **Structure &****Organization** | **Introduction** | **Topic Sentences** | **Paragraphs** | **Transitions** | **Progression** |
| Does the intro walk us through the paper’s argument? Does it feel like a road map, and not just filler before the thesis? Does it avoid cliché or overly broad sentiments? | Is each paragraph introduced with a topic sentence? Do the topic sentences offer a specific claim? Do they indicate how that claim will be proved?  | Does each paragraph feel unified in its argument? Do they avoid wandering? Does their length feel appropriate? Do they tie up their claims before moving to the next paragraph? | Are transitions used effectively? Do we get a clear sense of how each new paragraph builds on the previous one?  | Does the argument flow smoothly from paragraph to paragraph? Does each one seem to build logically off the previous one? Is it clear where we’re going?  |
| **Evidence &****Analysis** | **Presentation** | **Evidence Choice** | **Strength of Analysis** | **Complexity** | **Relevance** |
| Are quotes introduced with clear and appropriate context? Do they integrate smoothly into the paragraph?  | Is there sufficient evidence? Is evidence well chosen in relation to argument? Does the evidence feel vital to the argument, instead of just window dressing? Has the writer chosen quotes that lend themselves well to interpretation?  | Is the meaning of quotes interpreted, rather than just summarized or assumed to be self-evident? Does each quote receive sufficient analysis?  | Does the analysis go in depth? Does the writer analyze language, and not just content? Does the writer show us something about the quote that we can’t get just by reading it? | Does the analysis support the claims being made? Does the writer clearly show how their analysis supports their claims, instead of just presenting it? |
| **Style** **& Mechanics** | **Syntax** | **Word Choice** | **Flow & Style** | **Formatting** | **Errors** |
| Are sentences clear and easy to understand? Does the writer avoid run ons and fragments? Do they use appropriate grammar?  | Is the word choice apt? Does the writer use appropriate word choice for a paper? Is the word choice interesting?  | Does writer vary sentence lengths? Does writer vary word choice? Does writer avoid clunky or awkward phrasing? Does the paper read smoothly? | Is MLA formatting used correctly? Does formatting follow requirements (margin, spacing, etc)? Is the paper the correct length? | Is the paper free of spelling and grammar errors? Is the paper free of typos? |

\* I grade each criteria out of 5, 5 being the most successful. Twenty five possible criteria, max of 5 points each, for a total of 100 points possible.