

Scarlet Letter Essay Rubric

	Exceeds Expectations	Meets Expectations	Below Expectations	Does Not Meet Expectations
Introduction & Thesis Statement	The introduction includes an effective hook and transitions to the thesis statement. The thesis statement states an arguable opinion.	The introduction includes a hook and transitions to the thesis statement, which states an arguable opinion.	One element of an introduction is weak and/or missing (hook, narrowing to thesis, strong, arguable thesis).	More than one element of an introduction is missing (hook, narrowing to thesis, strong, arguable thesis).
Body Paragraphs & Organization (x2)	Examples and support are organized in a logical order. Each body paragraph has a well-written topic sentence and support that connects to the thesis. Transitions are used effectively within and between paragraphs.	Examples and support are provided in a fairly logical order. Each body paragraph has a topic sentence that supports the thesis. Transitions are sometimes used within and between paragraphs.	A few of the support details or examples are not in an expected or logical order, distracting the reader and making the essay seem a little confusing. Many topic sentences and transitions are weak.	Many of the support details or examples are not in an expected or logical order, distracting the reader and making the essay seem very confusing. Topic sentences do not support the thesis. No transitions are present.
Support from the text (x2)	The essay remains focused and includes insightful, direct evidence from the text to support the thesis. The writer uses insightful commentary to connect textual support to the topic sentence and thesis. Textually support is properly integrated.	The essay remains focused and includes direct evidence from the text to support the thesis. The writer uses commentary to connect textual support to the topic sentence and thesis. Writer attempts to properly integrate textual support.	The essay remains mostly focused and includes some direct evidence from the text to support the thesis. The writer occasionally uses effective commentary. Little quote integration.	The essay is not very focused and/or does not include direct evidence from the text to support the thesis. The writer does not include commentary to connect quotes to the topic sentences or thesis. Quotes are not used and/or not properly integrated.
Conclusion	The conclusion is strong and leaves the reader solidly understanding the writer's position. An effective restatement of the thesis is included.	The conclusion is recognizable and understandable. The author's thesis is restated.	The conclusion is recognizable. The author's thesis is restated within the closing paragraph.	The thesis is not restated or is found in the same wording as the introduction. The essay is not summed up.
Conventions	Author makes virtually no errors in grammar, spelling, or punctuation that distract the reader from the content.	Author makes few errors in grammar, spelling, or punctuation that distract the reader from the content.	Author makes some errors in grammar, spelling, or punctuation that distract the reader from the content.	Author makes excessive errors in grammar, spelling, or punctuation that distract the reader from the content.
Requirements	All requirements are met (MLA formatting, page length, etc.)	Paper is the correct length; one or two errors in MLA formatting.	Paper is not long enough; several errors in MLA formatting.	Paper does not meet the requirements.

Total: _____/50