

“A” range essays:

- Completely respond to the prompt and support the prompt through specific textual examples.
- Are well-organized and well-written with a detailed thesis that does not rewrite the question; instead, it is developed and concise. The thesis answers the question and provides an outline for the essay.
- Effectively introduce, include, and analytically support specific quotations from the text in support of the argument. Each quote connects to the thesis statement and provides an analysis of the text.
- Each body paragraph is developed, including an effective, argumentative topic sentence that provides organization and focus throughout its entirety. Topic sentences include developed transitions.
- End each paragraph with a strong concluding statement that connects back to the thesis.
- Support provides a high level of analysis of the text, and it expresses deeper meanings and relevance to the topic. Summarization is not used in order to support the argument.
- Avoid vague language and repetitive diction. Utilize a variety of sentence structures.
- Do not use second-person “you”, first person “I”, or contractions.
- Are free of distracting grammatical errors (spelling, punctuation, sentence mechanical errors). Grammar focus: _____
- The paper adheres to the prescribed MLA formatting requirements.
- Demonstrate the writer’s knowledge and comprehension of the text at a high level.
- Submit to turnitin.com

“B” range essays:

- Answer the prompt sufficiently with supporting textual evidence. Textual evidence might not be as specific or relevant to the prompt. (Not as effective as “A” papers)
- Contain a thesis, but are not as developed as “A” papers; thus, they simply restate the question being asked and provide an outline for the essay.
- Use some quotations from the novel, but they are not developed through analysis or clearly introduced. Student may begin to do this, but does not go beyond the surface level of the text in order to express deeper meanings. The quotations do not fully connect to the thesis statement.
- Topic sentences lack development. They are not always argumentative. Student tends to start with the same word and struggle to provide focus for the body paragraph. Topic sentences may include simplistic transitions.
- End each paragraph with a concluding statement that may not connect to thesis.
- Body paragraphs are organized and include some summarization of the text; analysis of the text may lack development through specific explanations and connection to thesis statement.
- Avoid vague language and repetitive diction. Attempt to utilize a variety of sentence structures.
- May contain one or two uses of second-person “you” and first-person “I”, along with contractions.
- Adhere to the prescribed MLA formatting requirements.
- May include a few minor grammatical and mechanical errors.
- Submit to turnitin.com.

“C” range essays:

- Struggle to fully address the prompt.
- Include thesis statements that may not answer the question or may fail to state the purpose of the paper.
- Lack organization and the body paragraphs do not connect to the main argument of the essay.
- Include minimal and/or weak quotations from text in order to support the argument; the quotations may lack explanations that connect to the main idea of the essay.
- Lack analysis of the text; instead, summarization may carry each paragraph.
- Include weak topic sentences or they do not provide focus for the body paragraph.
- May not contain concluding sentences.
- May use vague language and repetitive diction. (Should not include things, stuff, a lot, nice, “This quote shows,” etc.)
- Do not adhere to the prescribed MLA formatting requirements.
- Contain numerous instances of “you” or “I,” along with contractions.
- Contain many distracting grammatical and mechanical errors.
- Submit to turnitin.com (May be late)

“D” range essays:

- Reflect an incomplete understanding of the text and fail to respond to the actual question.
- Discuss the text, but do so in a disorganized manner through incomplete body paragraphs and explanations. Lack topic sentences/concluding sentences.
- Summarization is used in order to make an argument throughout the body paragraphs.
- Do not include sufficient evidence or quotations from the text in order to support the argument.
- Use vague language and repetitive diction.
- Do not adhere to the prescribed MLA formatting requirements.
- Contain numerous instances of “you” or “I,” along with contractions.
- Major grammatical errors make the essay hard to read and understand.
- No submission to turnitin.com.

“F” range essays:

- Reveal that the writer did not read and/or comprehend the text.
- Are a complete summary of the text with no thesis and/or organization.