

↗ **HANDOUT 8** ↖
Essay Rubric

↗ HANDOUT 8 ↖ Essay Rubric				
CRITERIA				
Unity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thesis expresses a definitive point of view about topic. Body paragraphs support and reinforces thesis. Essay responds to prompt Introduction and conclusion are original, thoughtful, and integral to thesis. Introduction goes beyond providing expository to contain a “hook” that reflects the writer’s consideration of audience. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thesis expresses a point of view about the topic. Thesis acts as a main idea that paragraphs work to support. Body paragraphs contain topic sentences that state the main point of the paragraph. The introduction establishes the writer’s purpose. The conclusion brings to concert the main ideas of the body paragraphs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The main idea is clearly stated. Body paragraphs contain subtopics that relate to main idea. The introduction presents the topic of the paper. The conclusion brings the paper to a logical end. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Central statement is made about topic. Body paragraphs contain statements that are relevant to topic. The introduction and conclusion relate to the topic. The last paragraph closes the essay.
Mechanics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diction and syntax are varied, correct, and precise. Diction and punctuation are correct and effective – they work to enhance other elements of the essay. Register provides another layer of meaning for topic. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diction and syntax are varied and correct. Punctuation is correct. Register is appropriate for topic. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diction and syntax are correct. Grammar and punctuation errors are minimal. Register is adequate for assignment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diction and syntax are adequate with minimal interruptions of understanding. Grammar and punctuation are adequate with minimal errors. Register is appropriate for assignment.
Evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Body paragraphs subtopics are supported by a variety of relevant facts, examples, well-reasoned arguments and observations. Evidence is specific, text-based, and fully explained. Connection of evidence to thesis is clear. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each body paragraph provides specific evidence, examples, facts, and arguments to support its topic sentence and the thesis. All support is developed and explained. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Body paragraphs provide evidence for the thesis. Evidence from text is given. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Body paragraphs relate to thesis. Text is referenced throughout essay.
Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ideas are clear and organized. The connection of ideas to one another and to the thesis, and essay as a whole is explicit. Transitions are smooth, appropriate, and relevant to thesis, evidence, and ideas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The information in each paragraph addresses the topic sentence and thesis, and is organized accordingly. Transitions are provided between paragraphs and sentences. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most sentences in the body paragraph relate to thesis and are logically organized. Some transitions are provided. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The body paragraphs relate to thesis. Ideas in body paragraphs are coherent. Ideas relate to one another.

Diction -- word choice.

Syntax -- sentence formation; sentence structure and word order.

Register -- type and tone of language used to for a specific type of communicative setting (in this case, the register literary discourse).