


Scoring Guide-Literary Essay

	Focus	Organization	Development	Style	Mechanics
 5	Insightful, imaginative, Complex	Subtly organized to emphasize important ideas Engaging introduction and /or strong sense of closure Topic sentences further offer insight Establishes context smoothly.	Insightful use of details/quotes to prove thesis. Supporting examples are rich, interesting, full. Add meaning. Q Elaboration is thorough, reaching back to the thesis but beyond. E	Shows writer's voice. Stands out! Uses precise and vivid language. Effective use of writing techniques such as imagery and figurative language. Contains a variety of sentence styles that contribute to rhythm	Use of complex structures with few mechanical errors
4	Controlling idea is based on meaningful thesis	The organization is logical. Effective introduction and conclusion Establishes context for quotes and/or examples (CQE) Uses <i>cohesive devices</i> between paragraphs: topic sentences, clinchers, and transitional phrases/sentences Avoids stems such as "this is important because..."	Adequate use of details/quotes to prove thesis. Quotes , paraphrases, and specific examples are meaningful and substantive (CQE) Explanation and elaboration provide strong and relevant connection to focus (CQE)	Style matches purpose and audience. Uses precise language, specific verbs. Avoids wordiness. Maintains consistent and appropriate narration and tense Contains sentences that show some variety of structure Employs MLA as appropriate.	Few errors relative to length and complexity Specific issue(s): Title punctuation Commas inside quotation marks
3	Limited, repetitive, or too general	Logical but contains minor lapses in order. Shows evidence of paragraphing. Inconsistent use of cohesive devices. Use of stems such as "this is important because..." Includes context but uses "floating quotes."	Examples do not adequately prove thesis. Examples may not be relevant to focus Q Some important specific examples are omitted Q Examples lack elaboration. E	Style hinders purpose and audience. Language is not precise, e.g., "good," "bad," "thing," "a lot," "very," etc. May slip in narration (point of view) or tense . Some obvious redundancy of syntax or diction Does not employ MLA as appropriate.	
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deviates from focus OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fails to address the questions/prompt 	Difficult to follow. Does not employ paragraphing appropriately. Little or no evidence of a beginning, middle, and/or end. No context .	Lacks details that address thesis. Too few examples Examples are merely listed, no elaboration	Purpose and audience are not considered in style decisions.	Errors interfere with meaning Specific issue(s):

