

Scoring Guide for Writing About Theme

Essay Features

Introduction -- 8 POINTS

	<i>Present?</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Hook -- An interesting and engaging opening designed to “hook” your reader 2 POINTS		
Lead/Background -- Enough background to help orient your reader and lead him/her to the thesis 3 POINTS		
Thesis Statement -- The assertion you are attempting to prove or explain <i>(Includes book title, author, theme idea)</i> 3 POINTS		

Body -- 18 POINTS/PARAGRAPH

1+ paragraph(s) beginning with a topic sentence that tells the reader what the paragraph will be about 3 POINTS		
Student explains how the theme is developed by the author using three examples from the text. Student explains how each example supports the thesis (theme) 6 POINTS/PARAGRAPH		
Text passages are cited with page number 3 points total; 1 point per example (text evidence)		
Text passages are correctly capitalized and punctuated, including the correct use of quotation marks 3 POINTS; 1 PER EXAMPLE		
At least 3 transitions (words or phrases) are used throughout the paragraph to help the reader follow your thinking 3 POINT; 1 PER TRANSITION		

Conclusion -- 6 POINTS

Conclusion is at least **three sentences long** and **sums up the main points of the essay AND restates, in some way, the thesis.**

3 POINTS

Ends with a **“clincher”** or thought-provoking sentence that **relates the theme** of the essay to the real-world or leaves your reader with an interesting thought to reflect on.

3 POINTS

Other -- 8 POINTS

Student writing is free of spelling errors.

2 POINTS

Student writing is free of capitalization errors.

2 POINTS

Student writing is free of punctuation errors.

2 POINTS

Student writes in third person.

2 POINTS

Total Points: /40