

Beginning (0-11):

Little to no analysis; mostly plot summary or unsupported claims.

Research and Secondary Sources - 20 points**Excellent (18-20):**

Integrates **3+ credible sources** effectively. Uses scholarship to deepen the argument. All sources are of high quality and reputable (scholarly or otherwise).

Proficient (15-17):

Uses at least 3 appropriate sources with generally good integration.

Developing (12-14):

Uses fewer than 3 sources, OR sources lack academic credibility, OR integration is weak.

Beginning (0-11):

Little to no research; relies on inappropriate sources.

Organization and Writing Quality - 15 points**Excellent (14-15):**

Clear, logical structure with strong paragraphs and transitions. Writing is polished, engaging, and virtually error-free.

Proficient (12-13):

Generally well-organized; writing mostly clear with minor issues.

Developing (9-11):

Some organizational problems: writing may be unclear or contain distracting errors.

Beginning (0-8):

Poor organization; many grammar or clarity issues.

MLA Format (In-text Citations and Works Cited) - 15 points**Excellent (14-15):**

MLA format is consistently followed for in-text citations and Works Cited, with precise formatting.

Proficient (12-13):

Mostly correct MLA formatting with minor issues.

Developing (9-11):

Multiple MLA errors OR incomplete citation details.

Beginning (0-8):

Incorrect or missing MLA citations; no Works Cited page.

Length and Submission Requirements - 5 points**Excellent (5):**

Paper is 5–7 full pages; submitted correctly with Works Cited.

Developing (3-4):

Paper slightly under/over length OR minor issues with submission format.

Beginning (0-2):

Paper significantly too short/too long, OR missing required components.

Total: 100 points