

## Essay Check List

### MLA format:

- 1" margins on all sides
- Complete MLA heading in upper left corner
- Page numbers with last name upper right corner

### Citations and Works Cited:

- Each quotation followed by citation of author and page number. For example: (59). (*Fitzgerald 59*). or (*Poe, "Raven," 59*).
- Each citation is followed by a period.
- Works Cited listed in alphabetical order with all information complete. See *Write For College*.

### Title:

- Title is creative and interesting,
- Title is centered at the top of the page
- Your essay title is **not underlined**. (The title of the novel is underlined.)

### Introduction:

- hook
  - Series of questions followed by commentary that leads to the thesis.
  - An anecdote (story) followed by commentary that leads to the thesis.
  - A quotation, not from the novel you are writing about, followed by commentary that leads to the thesis.
  - A general idea followed by commentary that gradually focuses the idea closer and closer until the thesis makes a very specific statement.
  - Any combination of the above
- State title and author of each work to be discussed in the essay.
- Title of novel or play is in italics or underlined [ Title of poem or essay is in quotation marks.]
- Thesis with the **idea** you are going to demonstrate or prove
- Thesis shows your **opinion** through diction and imagery, or possibly simile or metaphor

### Body paragraphs:

- Each paragraph begins with a topic sentence that supports the idea in the thesis.
- Each body paragraph has one or more examples (quotations or descriptions)
- Each example or quotation has full commentary, i.e. three levels of commentary: explaining the example, connecting the example to the topic sentence, reflections extending to deeper thoughts about the example.
- Each example or quotation is introduced by its context in the literary work.
- Additional commentary extends your ideas to the world beyond the novel (or play or poem)
- Body paragraphs build up to the strongest demonstration of the thesis.

### Conclusion:

- First sentence refocuses the thesis idea, stating it in a new, more thoughtful way.
- Commentary extends the essay to the world beyond the novel (or play or poem).
- The final sentence is forceful and convincing.

**Rhetoric:**

- Check the whole essay for effective syntax, diction, imagery, similes, and metaphors.
- The whole essay does not use any of the following: *in my opinion you, your, yours, in conclusion.*
- Essay uses *I* only when describing personal experiences.
- Essay uses we, us, our or one, the reader etc – not you.
- The essay uses literary present when discussing literary works.
- Check the whole essay for errors in grammar and punctuation, especially semi-colons ( ; ), dashes ( – ) and commas before coordinating conjunctions ( , *and* , *but* , *or* , *for* , *nor* , *yet* ).

**Depth of thought and Effectiveness of Style**

- Essay demonstrates probing thought, surprising insights, or unusual conclusions.
- Style demonstrates creativity, precision, daring, color, or music
- The writer's voice is distinct and engaging

**Vocabulary from The Scarlet Letter**

Before reading the novel, examine the attached list of vocabulary words taken from the novel. Look up words you do not know and look for them as you read.

1. malefactor/ malefactress
2. sumptuary
3. iniquity
4. ignominious; ignominy
5. manifest
6. contumely; contumaciously
7. preternaturally
8. phantasmagoric
9. countenance
10. infamy
11. sagacity; sagacious
12. eminent; eminence
13. eloquence
14. turmoil
15. anguish
16. intimate
17. peremptory
18. apprehension
19. ligament
20. sustain
21. trial (ordeal; legal procedure)
22. uncongenial
23. inquisitorial; inquisition
24. emblematic; emblem
25. emolument
26. commiseration
27. requite
28. subsistence
29. ascetic
30. ingenuity
31. revile
32. malice
33. concoct
34. ulcer; ulcerated
35. aspiration
36. exhortation
37. callous
38. intimations
39. obscure
40. loathsome
41. caprice
42. sentiment
43. appall
44. ejaculation
45. similitude
46. lavish
47. imperative; imperatively
48. emaciated
49. cordially
50. scrutinize
51. benevolent

52. concord
53. inimical
54. irrelevant
55. palliate
56. ample
57. somniferous
58. subtle
59. antipathy
60. efficacious
61. introspection
62. pall
63. zenith
64. benign
65. speculate
66. derisive; derisively
67. scintillate; scintillating
68. vivacity
69. luxuriant
70. loquacious; loquacity
71. melancholy
72. despondent; despondency
73. listless
74. malevolent
75. contiguity; contiguous
76. misanthropy
77. malignity
78. satiate
79. colloquy
80. estranged
81. trammel; trammeled
82. extenuation
83. harrow
84. inscrutable
85. machinations
86. irrevocably
87. solace
88. stigma
89. intangible
90. tantalize; tantalizing
91. inure; inured
92. mollify; mollified
93. gesticulate
94. vicissitude
95. duplicity
96. disquietude
97. mutable; mutability
98. obeisance
99. requisite
100. effluence
101. effervescence
102. shimmer

103. demeanor
  104. integrity
  105. necromancy
  106. undulate
  107. indefatigable
  108. eccentricity
  109. perplexity
  110. intrusive
  111. unscrupulous
  112. centrifugal
  113. repugnance
  114. oracle
  115. tumult
  116. ethereal; etherealized
  117. apotheosis
  118. imperceptible
- portent