

Criteria	Exemplary	Satisfactory	Below Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Statement of interpretation and focus 5 points	The central interpretive claim and focus is insightful, stated clearly, described comprehensively, and provides relevant information necessary for full understanding. (5 points)	Central claim or focus is stated, described, and clarified so that understanding is not seriously impeded by omissions. (3.7 points)	Point of interpretation is stated but description raises multiple questions and doubts because elements are undefined, contradictions unconsidered, or premises unknown. (1.3 points)	Interpretive point is stated without clarification or description. (0 points)
Uses textual evidence to support and build claims. 5 points	Interpretative claims are supported by accurate, relevant textual references. Discussion clarifies how the text supports claims, with enough context and evaluation to develop a comprehensive and compelling analysis and synthesis of ideas. (5 points)	Accurate and relevant support is taken from text with enough interpretation/ evaluation to develop a coherent analysis or synthesis. (3.7 points)	Information is taken from text with some interpretation/ evaluation, but not enough to develop a coherent analysis or synthesis. Accuracy of reference may be debatable. (1.3 point)	Information is taken from source(s) without any interpretation/ evaluation. May be irrelevant to thesis or clearly inaccurate. (0 points)
Attention to formal elements of the text demonstrates close, informed reading. 5 points	Integrates relevant formal elements of text into interpretation (plot, word choice & style, narrative POV, character, setting, symbolism, poetic elements where appropriate, etc.) and clearly relates those elements to any broader treatment of thematic or contextual elements. (5 points)	May consider some relevant formal elements of text while ignoring others. (3.7 points)	Some inconsistent, irrelevant, or contradictory interpretations of formal elements of the text. (1.3 point)	Interpretation ignores textual evidence, or accepts text without question or nuance. (0 points)
Organization Overall structure, introduction, conclusion, transitions. 4 points	Well organized; contains artful transitions between sentences and paragraphs; an inviting lead draws the reader in; a satisfying conclusion wraps things up. (4 points)	Clearly and logically organized; transitions are often formulaic; introduction and/or conclusion work but may not be compelling. (2.7 points)	Organized; may contain predictable, mechanical sequence; transitions are sometimes weak; introduction and/or conclusion may be minimally satisfying. (1.3 points)	Some evidence of organization; organization may not be followed clearly; transitions are frequently weak; introduction and/or conclusion may be weak. (0 points)
Diction Word choice, voice, audience, clarity of language 4 points	Concrete, specific words used correctly; diction is distinctive and mature; no colloquialisms, clichés or trite expressions; language anticipates the audience's needs. (4 points)	Word choice is generally accurate; writer goes beyond automatic word choices to more precise and effective choices; language meets the audience's needs. (2.7 points)	Word choice is generally correct; range of words is limited; in some cases the wording is abstract and imprecise; language sometimes does not meet the audience's needs. (1.3 points)	Vague, ordinary words; relies on clichés and jargon; language often does not meet the audience's needs. (0 points)

Conventions Grammar and mechanics 2 points	Free of spelling, grammatical and mechanical errors. (2 points)	Few spelling, grammatical and mechanical errors.(1.3 points)	Some spelling, grammatical, and mechanical errors. (0.7 points)	Major grammatical and mechanical errors. (0 points)
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