

Mini Theme Essay Scoring Guide

Element of Your Theme Paragraph	Standard	Notes
Topic Sentence	<p>Topic sentence is <i>includes the theme, the book title and author, and at least one way in which the theme is developed.</i></p> <p>Book title is underlined and capitalized appropriately</p>	
Supporting Details	<p>There are at least three distinct, specific, and valid details from the text to support the theme identified by the student writer</p> <p>Transition words are used to help the reader follow the writer's train of thought</p>	<p><u>To Link Supporting Details to Statements Use:</u> For example, an example of this is, this happens when, for instance, one instance of this is, one such example of this is seen in</p> <p><u>Transition Words:</u> First, next, second, then, finally, lastly, additionally, another, a final, an additional, third, following that</p>
Conclusion	<p>The student writer relates the overall theme of the book to the real world and thus to the lives of his/her readers</p>	<p>The final sentence is often called a "clincher" because it is meant to grab your reader's attention and leave him or her with a final meaningful thought about your subject</p>
Sentence Structure	<p>Sentences are well-constructed and varied</p>	<p>There are no comma splices, run-ons, or sentence fragments.</p> <p>Correct comma splices and run on sentences this way:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use a ; between independent clauses 2. Use a . + a capital letter to separate independent clauses 3. Use a comma + a FANBOYS* conjunction

		<p>to separate independent clauses</p> <p>*for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so</p>
Capitalization	<p>All proper nouns and adjectives are capitalized.</p> <p>The pronoun I is capitalized.</p> <p>The beginning of every sentence is capitalized.</p>	<p>Proper nouns = the names of people, places, and things</p> <p>Proper adjectives are made from proper nouns</p> <p><u>Example:</u> America → American France → French England → English</p>
Punctuation	<p>Every sentence ends with is correct punctuation.</p> <p>Commas are used in every series of 3 or more words</p> <p>Commas are used before the coordinating conjunctions that join two independent clauses</p> <p>Apostrophes are used to indicate possession and contractions (never for making a singular noun plural)</p>	
Spelling	<p>All words (including names) are spelled correctly</p>	<p>Use spelling tool under “Tools” on the Google Docs menu bar for help</p>
Other Grammar-Related Requirements	<p>All verbs agree with their subjects</p> <p>All pronouns are clearly tied to their antecedents</p> <p>Subjective and objective pronouns are used correctly</p>	
Formal Style	<p>Essay is written in <i>third person</i></p>	<p>-No first person references (I, me, we, us)</p> <p>-No second person references (you, your, you’re)</p>