

ESSAY CHECKLIST

Your Name:

Title of Essay _____

INTRODUCTION:

- Do you immediately refer to the question? Is the opening sentence exciting and inviting?
- Does it have 1-3 sentences leading to a thesis statement that is thematically related to the opening sentence? Must include the author and *Book Title*.
- Does your thesis statement sum up your essay in one sentence?

PARAGRAPHS:

- Does each paragraph begin in an attention grabbing way?
- Does this first sentence relate to the thesis?
- Does each paragraph contain about 5 sentences, supporting your first sentence with effective use of a short quote or two – cited in MLA?
- Does each paragraph contain strong words, avoiding vague words like ‘nice’ and avoiding slang?
- Is each paragraph free of grammar or punctuation mistakes? Did you italicize the book title?
- Is each paragraph free of personal pronouns and is literature referred to in the present tense?
- Does each paragraph end with a rounding off sentence that also hints at the content of the next paragraph?

CONCLUSION:

- Does it start with a sentence that relates to the thesis statement?
- Does it contain 1-3 sentences supporting this statement, but using different words to express the idea than those used in the body of the essay?
- Does it make a slightly new but related point to finish the essay?

BEFORE YOU HAND IN YOUR ESSAY:

- Have you proofread and revised your essay; have you checked for punctuation?
- Is your essay lively and enjoyable to read?