

Single Story Essay Rubric

Name _____

Categories	Inadequate	Developing	Proficient	Skilled	Exceptional	Points Earned / Points Possible
Thesis Statement	No discernible thesis present.	Vague thesis takes no discernible position and/or does not address prompt.	Somewhat specific thesis takes a general position and mostly addresses prompt.	Specific and distinct thesis takes a clear and arguable position and addresses prompt by supporting, refuting, or qualifying it.	Specific, compelling, and distinct thesis takes a clear and arguable position and addresses prompt by supporting, refuting, or qualifying it.	/
Argumentative Structure	No discernible thesis. No introduction and/or conclusion present. No transitions. No topic sentences or topic sentences do not support thesis. No thought progression.	Thesis incorrectly placed. Ineffective conclusion.. Some transitions. Topic sentences mostly do not support thesis. No discernible thought progression.	Thesis correctly placed. Attempted purposeful intro and conclusion address topic. Some transitions. Topic sentences mostly support thesis. Mostly logical thought progression.	Thesis correctly placed. Purposeful intro and conclusion address topic. Effective transitions. Clear topic sentences support thesis. Logical thought progression.	Thesis correctly placed. Purposeful & compelling intro and conclusion effectively address topic. Thoughtful and effective transitions. Clear and specific topic sentences directly support the thesis. Logical thought progression.	/
Support & Analysis	Few specific or relevant examples that do not support argument and no explanation of link between examples and thesis/claim.	Some specific and mostly relevant examples that mostly support argument and limited explanation of link between examples and thesis/claim.	Some specific and relevant examples that mostly support argument and some explanation of link between examples and thesis/claim.	Specific and relevant examples to support argument and clear explanation of link between examples and thesis/claim. Acknowledgement of counterclaim.	Specific and relevant examples to support argument. Counterclaim is effectively and efficiently addressed. Clear explanation of link between examples and thesis/claim.	/
Documentation	Works Cited page present but completely	Works Cited page contains many errors.	Works Cited page contains some errors.	Works Cited page near-perfectly formatted.	Works Cited page perfectly formatted.	/

	incorrect. Parenthetical citations present but incorrectly formatted.	Parenthetical citations contain many errors.	Parenthetical citations contain some errors.	Parenthetical citations correctly formatted.	Parenthetical citations correctly formatted.	
Formatting	Paper does not adhere to MLA manuscript rules	Paper adheres to few manuscript rules	Paper adheres to some MLA manuscript rules	Paper adheres to most MLA manuscript rules	Paper perfectly adheres to all MLA manuscript rules	/
Mechanics & Usage	Several errors in mechanical conventions, no apparent thought in use of diction.	Several errors in mechanical conventions, some thoughtful use of diction.	Minimal errors in mechanical conventions, some effective use of diction and rhetorical devices.	Minimal errors in mechanical conventions, intentional and effective use of diction and rhetorical devices.	Polished, error-free mechanical conventions; Intentional and effective use of varied syntax, diction, and rhetorical devices.	/
Audience	No acknowledgement of audience. No stylistic decisions. Tone is inappropriate.	Barely acknowledges audience and shows little consideration of audience's characteristics. Stylistic decisions are limited and show little to no thought. Tone is inconsistent.	Somewhat acknowledges audience and shows some consideration of audience's characteristics. Makes some stylistic decisions that show some thought. Applies tone mostly consistently.	Acknowledges audience and anticipates some of the audience's characteristics. Makes deliberate stylistic decisions and applies a consistent tone.	Acknowledges audience and anticipates audience's knowledge level, concerns, values, and possible biases. Makes deliberate stylistic decisions and applies thoughtful tone.	/