

## Grading Guidelines for Essay 2

### 1. Research

- Sources: were they adequate, legitimate, well chosen?
- Citations: all sources cited, both in the text and at the end? In correct MLA Citation format? Only those sources listed which have been cited? Page numbers for all quotations?
- Appropriate use of sources: do they serve the argument or seem extraneous, misapplied?

—Bonus: special diligence in seeking out interesting and relevant materials; going beyond a basic search; responding to scholars or critics in specific ways

### 2. Organization

- Does the paper develop the allusion effectively (explication, location in the passage, larger context)?
- Does the argument strike a good balance between central points and supporting evidence and details?
- Are the paragraphs coherent and unified? Do they use clear topic sentences and transitions?

—Bonus: avoiding vague opening and concluding paragraphs; challenging basic assumptions and opening up new possibilities

### 3. Style and Mechanics

- Is the prose clear, concise, and free of errors?
- Does the author avoid "process" language, generalizations, other elements distracting from the ideas?

—Bonus: elegance, humor, vividness, or other stylistic evidence of an engaged and confident writer

### 4. Ideas and Argument

- Did the author select an interesting allusion and find good possibilities for developing its significance?
- Does the author make a convincing case for the thesis by using specific examples and evidence and a clear logical framework?

—Bonus: evidence of imaginative thinking, intellectual risk-taking, extra efforts with challenging topics; looking for problems rather than answers, ideas rather than the "message"