



Adv. English 2 Project Outline

Literary Analysis Essay DUE: 11/2/2025

Literary Analysis Essay Rubric: "The Masque of the Red Death"

Criteria	4 - Outstanding	3 - Good	2 - Developing	1 - Needs Improvement
Thesis & argument	Thesis is crystal clear, focused, and explicitly names the author, text, theme, and 2+ symbols. The argument is insightful and sophisticated.	Thesis is clear and focused, naming the author, text, and main theme. The argument is strong and easy to follow.	Thesis is present but may be vague, incomplete, or list symbols without a clear connection to the theme. The argument is generic.	Thesis is missing or completely irrelevant to the prompt. The essay lacks a clear controlling idea.
Evidence and Analysis	All three body paragraphs use strong, well-integrated textual evidence (quotes). Analysis is deep, explaining how the symbols convey the theme, not just what they mean.	Body paragraphs use relevant textual evidence. Analysis clearly explains what the symbol means and why it supports the theme.	Evidence is either too sparse or too general (summary instead of quote). Analysis is brief or only summarizes the text without explaining the "why."	Little or no textual evidence is used. The essay relies on summary. Analysis is missing or irrelevant.
Organization and Structure	Essay adheres strictly to the 5-paragraph structure. Topic sentences are clear. Transitions link ideas smoothly between and within paragraphs.	Essay follows the 5-paragraph structure. Transitions are used, making the paper generally easy to follow.	Structure is uneven (e.g., only 4 paragraphs or paragraphs are too long/short). Topic sentences and transitions are weak or repetitive.	The essay lacks logical organization. Ideas jump abruptly, making the reading confusing.
Conventions and Style	Writing is highly engaging, sophisticated, and adheres perfectly to formal tone (literary present tense, no contractions/slang). Virtually no errors in grammar, spelling, or punctuation.	Writing is clear and uses a formal tone consistently. Few minor errors in grammar/mechanics that do not impede understanding.	Writing style is sometimes awkward, and the tone is inconsistent (slang or personal pronouns used). Multiple errors distract the reader.	Errors in conventions (grammar, spelling, syntax) are frequent and severe, making the essay difficult to read and understand.