**Communications**

**Short Story Unit – Essay Topics**

Select any ONE of the topics below, and write a thoughtful essay about today’s story using *point-proof-explain* paragraphs, with **direct quotes** from the story as evidence to support your ideas.

**TOPICS:**

1. Explain how the main character in this story is a **round OR dynamic character**.
2. How is this story shaped by the **setting?**
3. Describe the different examples of **irony** in this story.
4. Identify a **theme** of this story and give three examples of how that is shown in the story.

**Marking Breakdown**

**Overall** (quality or writing, depth of insight into the story, effectiveness of support) /16

**Quotes** (at least three, relevant and correctly integrated) /8

**Mechanics** (no Run Ons, Sentence Fragments, or usage errors) /4

**Total /28**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Criteria** | **Exceeds expectations** | **Meets expectations** | **Approaches expectations** | **Not there yet** |
| ***Argument*** | Interesting, original thesis sentence.  Interesting, concrete, and descriptive examples and details with explanations that relate to the thesis. | Clear thesis sentence.  Examples and details are mostly relevant. Good arguments that are mostly on topic. | Acceptable thesis sentence.  Some examples are relevant, while others need more work. Arguments may need to be clarified. | Thesis sentence may be missing, or off topic.  Insufficient, vague, or undeveloped examples. |
| ***Structure*** | Structure is clear. Follows the point – proof- explain format.  Thoughtful, logical progression of supporting examples.  Mature transitions between ideas.  Well written conclusion that restates the main idea and hints at bigger ideas. | Mostly follows the point – proof – explain format, but may be missing an element.  Details are arranged in a logical progression.  Most transitions work.  Good conclusion that restates the main idea. | Needs more work on using the point – proof – explain format.  Acceptable arrangement of examples;  transitions may need work.  Conclusion may be unclear. | Does not seem to have used an outline.  No discernible pattern of organization.  Unrelated details; no transitions.  Conclusion is missing. |
| ***Quotes - Evidence*** | All main points have relevant quotes as evidence. | Some main points have relevant quotes as evidence. | Few main points have relevant quotes as evidence. | No quotes used in the paragraph |
| ***Quotes - Integration*** | All quotes are integrated properly. | Most quotes are integrated properly. | Few quotes are integrated properly. | No quotes are integrated properly. |
| ***Grammar & Spelling*** | Clearly written, neatly presented, almost no errors. | Mostly clear and neat. Some errors, but meaning is clear.  3-5 errors. | More care needed Errors somewhat interfere with meaning.  5-9 errors. | Demonstrates little effort. Spelling and/or writing errors make understanding difficult.  More than 9 errors. |