

Student Name:
Course: ENG 1304
Instructor: Adam McCune

Ideal Paper
(maximum credit)

Maximum credit **Earned credit**

Introduction & Conclusion	You explain the issue (what your academic sources disagree about) and provide enough background for your reader to understand and take interest. Your conclusion restates your argument: why your audience should agree with your position. Your conclusion shows the significance and impact of your position: why it matters that your audience should agree with you, especially regarding what your claim tells us about the significance or meaning (theme and message) of the literary work.	4	
Claim	You have articulated the different positions so as to be parallel to your claim/thesis: that is, (1) your claim is of the same kind as the other positions: they are all claims of fact, all claims of definition, all claims of cause, all claims of value, or all claims of policy, and (2) your claim answers the same question the other positions answer. Your claim says something about the significance or meaning (theme and message) of the literary work. Your claim is clear, focused (specific enough to be well covered in your argument), appropriately complex (the result of analysis, not merely easily-found factual material), and arguable (someone might plausibly disagree, whether because of a different perspective or lack of information).	4	
Structure & Argument	You accurately describe at least three different positions on a single issue. You provide supporting arguments used by those who hold each position. You refute (provide counterarguments to) arguments for opposing positions. You provide at least one subclaim (supporting argument) for your main claim in addition to refutations of opposed arguments, and in addition to supporting arguments made by a source with which you agree. You make clear how your subclaim supports your main claim. Your own arguments and counterarguments are sound, convincing, and free of fallacies. Thesis/claim serves as the organizing principle and focus of the entire essay. The stated point of each section (either a subclaim or refutation of an opposing position) is explicitly connected to the main claim, and explains directly what the section is about.	4	
Support / Evidence	Your description of each position on the issue, and its supporting arguments, relies on summarized ideas and/or quotes from your sources. Your sources are appropriate academic sources that reliably portray these positions. You provide adequate support for each of your own arguments (both counterarguments and subclaims). Support includes specific details and quotations from the literary work (with citations). Any support from outside the literary work (which is optional) must be accompanied by citation of appropriate, reliable sources, such as academic sources and primary sources, unless it is common knowledge or is clearly described as your personal experience.	4	
Length, Format & Style	Paper is the correct length. Use of language is concise, efficient, and precise. Quoting, paraphrasing, and MLA style are executed correctly. Paper is mechanically neat and tidy (grammar, punctuation, spelling, formatting).	4	

TOTAL

20