

ESSAY GRADING RUBRIC

"THE TELL-TALE HEART" - INSANITY PLEA

4 A Advanced Exceeds Expectations	3 B Proficient Meets Expectations	2 C Basic Below Expectations	1 D Below Basic Fails to Meet Expectations
<p>The introduction is engaging and attention-grabbing, introduces the story and author, gives background information about a legal plea of insanity, and includes a well-worded thesis statement that clearly states that the killer is either insane or not.</p>	<p>The introduction introduces some background information about the story and the insanity plea and contains a basic thesis statement that claims that the killer is either insane or not.</p>	<p>The introduction basically introduces the topic, but the thesis statement is not clearly recognizable. The introduction may ramble about insanity and murder without ever clearly stating the author's claim.</p>	<p>The introduction does not contain a thesis statement and does not adequately introduce the story or the topic of the insanity plea.</p>
<p>The body paragraphs use transitions effectively. Topic sentences are varied and well-written. Each body paragraph focuses on a single reason or piece of evidence to support the claim about the killer in the story and includes a correctly-punctuated quotation from the story. The quote is clearly explained and used as effective and persuasive evidence. Specific details and examples logically support the topic sentence and keep the reader engaged.</p>	<p>The body paragraphs use basic transitions (i.e. "First of all," "Also," "Finally"). Each body paragraph focuses on a single reason or piece of evidence to support the claim about the killer in the story. At least two of the body paragraphs contain quotations from the story, but the punctuation of the quotes might not be perfect. Explanations are given, but more specific details are needed to make the writing engaging.</p>	<p>Few transitions are used, and some may be ineffective (such as using "Also," to introduce the first body paragraph). Some body paragraphs go off topic, or two body paragraphs have the same topic. Some quotes might be included, but they may not work effectively as evidence to prove a point. Paragraphs are short and do not give adequate explanations, reasons, or evidence to prove that the killer is either insane or not.</p>	<p>No transitions are used. Body paragraphs do not have topic sentences and do not focus on a single topic. No quotations from the story are included. Some body paragraphs veer away from the thesis or main idea of the essay. Examples and details are missing or are off topic.</p>
<p>The conclusion begins with a logical, sophisticated transition. It reviews the main ideas of the essay without sounding repetitive. The ending makes the essay feel complete and leaves the reader with a few final engaging ideas.</p>	<p>The conclusion begins with a simple transition (like "In conclusion," or "All in all,"). It reviews the main ideas of the essay by restating the thesis or repeating the topic sentences. The ending stays on topic and wraps up the writing but is not necessarily engaging.</p>	<p>The conclusion does not use a transition to set it apart from the body paragraphs. It might be very short, such as a single sentence that simply repeats the main idea of the essay. The ending does not make the essay feel complete.</p>	<p>There is no real conclusion paragraph. The essay might end with a body paragraph, or a juvenile ending statement (like "I hope you liked my essay," or "That's all I have to say about that topic," or "The end.") The ending leaves the essay feeling incomplete.</p>
<p>Capitalization, punctuation, spelling, and usage errors are rare. Quotations are punctuated correctly.</p>	<p>Some grammar and usage errors are present but don't detract from the story.</p>	<p>Many grammar and usage errors make it difficult to follow or enjoy the story.</p>	<p>Writing shows no understanding of standard language conventions.</p>