McCune

*Absolutely True Diary* Theme Essay Assignment

Now that we have composed a theme essay as a class, it’s your turn! For this assignment, you will compose a six paragraph essay exploring one of the themes raised in *Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*.

**Dates to remember**:

* February 19 Introduction to the assignment
* February 19-26 Compose a rough draft with teacher feedback from outline
* February 26 Complete rough draft due
* **March 11 Final draft of theme essay due**

**Grading Criteria**: You will be graded using the following rubric.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Element** | **4 Advanced** | **3 Proficient** | **2 Partially Proficient** | **1 Unsatisfactory** |
| **Introduction** | Introduction grabs the reader’s undivided attention and sets the stage for the rest of the essay | Introduction grabs the reader’s attention and sets up the thesis | Introduction somewhat grabs attention, but may be confusing, inaccurate, or unrelated to thesis | Introduction is nonexistent |
| **Thesis** | Thesis is profound and thought provoking. | Thesis is clear. | Thesis is somewhat unclear or confusing. | Thesis is nonexistent. |
| **MLA Formatting** | Essay is formatted correctly including headers, citations, paragraph indents, double spacing, size 12 Times New Roman font, and 1 inch margins. | Essay contains 1-2 formatting errors. | Essay contains 3-5 formatting errors. | Essay contains 6 or more formatting errors. |
| **Engagement with Source Material** | Quotations or references to the text obviously tie back to the thesis. Pieces of evidence build upon each other. | Quotations or references to the text tie back to the thesis. | Quotations or references to the text are confusing  OR  It is unclear how they relate to the thesis. | Quotations or references to the text are nonexistent. |
| **Conventions &Word Choice** | Effectively incorporates classroom vocabulary words and makes only occasional grammatical errors. | Incorporates classroom vocabulary words and makes some grammatical errors that do not impede reader understanding. | Attempts to incorporate classroom vocabulary words and makes multiple grammatical errors that sometimes hinder reader understanding. | Essay contains no attempt to incorporate classroom vocabulary words or is so full of errors that the reader does not understand what the author is trying to say. |
| **Conclusion** | Conclusion ties back into the thesis and answers the question, So What? | Conclusion ties back into the thesis. | Conclusion does not tie back into the thesis or introduces new information not addressed throughout the rest of the essay. | Conclusion is nonexistent. |

**A Tool To Help You Outline Your Essay:**

1. Compose a thesis statement using the formula we practiced as a class:
2. Circle the main ideas from your thesis that must be proven/defended with textual evidence.
3. Remember how you’re going to organize your essay:

Body Paragraph 1 will address the theme at the beginning of the book

Body Paragraph 2 will address the theme in the middle of the book

Body Paragraph 3 will address the theme at the end of the book

1. Body Paragraph 1:

Claim:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Evidence** | **Warrant** |
| #1 |  |  |
| #2 |  |  |

1. Body Paragraph 2:

Claim:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Evidence** | **Warrant** |
| #1 |  |  |
| #2 |  |  |

1. Body Paragraph 3:

Claim:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Evidence** | **Warrant** |
| #1 |  |  |
| #2 |  |  |

1. Now you need a short paragraph for your conclusion. Make sure to address the meaning of the work as a whole in the conclusion.

Source: Adapted from National Math + Science Initiative; Module 3; page 67