**Essay Grading Rubric Name: Peter Final Grade: 85**

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|  | A : 9-10 points | B-C: 7-8 points | D-F: 0-6 points |
| Introduction | The introduction is clear. Good Hook. Relevant background information is present, which leads into the TS. The reader is drawn into the essay **10** | The introduction is somewhat clear but lacks elements related to background or various sides of an argument. Or the reader is only slightly engaged. | The introduction lacks clarity. OR the background info is minimal or missing. Needs serious improvement. |
| Thesis statement | Thesis statement is clear and concise. Student’s position is clearly stated. | Thesis statement is present but needs to be re-worked somewhat. OR student’s position is unclear. **8** | Thesis statement is unclear or missing completely. |
| Structure and organization  x2 | Paragraphs are vey well structured. Each paragraph presents one idea and contains supporting details, which support the thesis statement.  Essay is well organized and clearly understandable. **10** | Paragraphs are structured somewhat well but lack cohesive idea and/or details that support the thesis statement.  OR not all details support the thesis statement.  Essay is organized but could use improvement in some areas. | Paragraphs are not very well organized. Some or all lack clear ideas and details.  OR  Ideas and details are disconnected from the thesis statement.  AND /OR  Essay is generally not well organized. Needs major improvements. |
| Ideas / Creativity  x 2 | Topic is appropriate and engaging.  Student shows clearly how he/she engaged with the song and interpreted the text.  At least 3 quotes are used.  Quotes are integrated fluidly | 1-2 items poor or missing  **8** | 3 or more items poor or missing |
| Vocabulary | Academic and formal vocabulary used throughout. | Some academic language is used but essay sounds somewhat colloquial in some areas. **7** | Vocabulary is extremely colloquial throughout essay. |
| Grammar /punctuation | Less than 5 grammar mistakes.  AND  perfect or near perfect punctuation. Commas, capitalization and periods. Clauses are clearly separated and essay can be easily read out loud. | 5-10 grammar/ punctuation mistakes.  Punctuation is decent but there are some major mistakes. | More than 10 grammar mistakes  Several major punctuation mistakes  **5** |
| Conclusion | Conclusion clearly ties all ideas together AND leaves the reader with a clear picture of the author’s position and argument. **9** | Conclusion is missing some elements such as a re-phrased thesis statement, synthesis of main points / ideas, … reader feels like something is missing at the end. | Conclusion is missing or unclear. Reader feels “dropped off a cliff” |
| Formatting | Perfect MLA format including in text citations and works cited page **10** | 1-2 mistakes in MLA format | Many mistakes in MLA formatting.  Poor MLA formatting / no formatting. |