**Literary Essay:** Editing Check List

**Introduction:**

*Introduction includes…*

* “Fetching first line” (a.k.a. it hooks/grabs the attention of the reader)
* Background information on the topic/theme is provided
* The novel’s title and the author’s name have been smoothly added into the intro
* A roadmap (min. 3 ideas/examples from the text to support the main idea)
* A clear thesis (statement about your theme)

**Body Paragraphs:**

*Body includes…*

* At least 1 separate paragraph for EACH item in the roadmap

*Each body paragraph includes…*

* A topic sentence (aka “mini-thesis” or “**Statement**”)
* At least ONE piece of evidence (aka quotation/paraphrase or “**eXample**”) from the text that helps explain the topic sentence
* Introduction to each piece of evidence (Who? What? When? Where? Why?)
* Citation for each piece of evidence, either quote or paraphrase (author pg#)
* An **Explanation** of how each piece of evidence helps explain the topic sentence
* An explanation of **whY** the evidence you presented helps explain your thesis
* Transition words/phrases within paragraphs increase flow and readability
* Transition words/phrases between paragraphs increase flow and readability

**Conclusion:**

*Conclusion includes…*

* Restatement of thesis (using different words than in the introduction)
* Short summary of each idea (from the roadmap) presented in the essay
* A connection of the theme/topic to a broader context/final thought for the audience
  + This thought should demonstrate the importance of your topic, and/or make a text-text/self/world connection
* No new information (that was not brought up in the body)

**Mechanics & Word Choice:**

*Essay does not include…*

* First-person (I, me) or second-person (you) language (use third-person – ex. he/she/they, people)
* Past tense, unless used to compare two events in the novel (use present tense to discuss events)
* Contractions, such as “it’s,” “don’t,” “aren’t” etc. (use “it is,” “do not,” “are not”)
* Repeated words and/or ideas (except in the conclusion)
* Comma-splices/run-on sentences (each sentence contains one idea, unless a conjunction is used)

**MLA Formatting:**

*Essay includes the following formatting…*

* Entire essay (including the title) is in Times New Roman font, size 12
* Title is center-justified, just above the introduction
* Entire essay is double-spaced
* There are NO spaces between paragraphs
* Last name and page number are included in the top, right-hand corner of the header
* Student’s name, teacher’s name, course name (Grade 9 ELA), and date have been included in the top, left-hand corner of the essay (instead of a full title page)
* Essay has 1-inch (or 2.54 cm) margins
* A Works Cited page has been included on a SEPARATE page; citation follows proper format:
  + Last name, first name. *Title of book*. Place of Publication: Publisher, Publication Date.
  + Use: <http://www.citationmachine.net/mla/cite-a-book> to search the ISBN if you want