**INDEPENDENT NOVEL PROJECT OPTION I**

You may read any type of book you like (fiction, non-fiction, horror, romance etc.) but you MUST get it approved by me first to be sure it is high school or college level.

REQUIREMENTS:

You will keep a Reading Journal [120 total points] in which you take notes four times   
throughout the book. After each quarter of the book (roughly 25% of the total pages).  
These notes should include at least 6 of the following:

1. summaries of events in the plot (page #s)
2. descriptions of new characters (page #s) predictions about the plot or characters
3. explanations of any symbolism, allusions, imagery, metaphors, etc. (page #s)
4. clarifications of the book's themes as they start to emerge (page #s)
5. commentary or your personal reaction to events or characters
6. questions about confusing parts
7. evaluation of the author's writing style and story development

You will prepare a two minute Advertisement [50 points] for your book, considering your peers as the audience and using one visual or audio aid. You can present the   
advertisement as a mini-speech with a poster or a PowerPoint or even a digital video!   
The idea is to convince your peers that this book is worth reading. The advertisement   
must include:

1. no more than 60 seconds of plot and theme overview (NO SPOILERS!)
2. an explanation of how a 17 or 18 year old student would connect with/relate to the book
3. an explanation of how the book teaches a valuable lesson about life
4. an example of the author's writing style (see Reading Journal for page #s)
5. an example of symbolism, allusion, imagery, metaphor, etc.   
   a visual or audio aid (see me if you have technology needs)

**INDEPENDENT NOVEL PROJECT OPTION II**

You may read any type of book you like (fiction, non-fiction, horror, romance etc.) but you   
MUST get it approved by me first to be sure it is high school or college level.

REQUIREMENTS:

Part 1: You will keep a Reading Journal [120 points] in which you take notes four times   
throughout the book. After each quarter of the book (roughly 25% of the total pages).  
These notes should include at least 6 of the following:

1. summaries of events in the plot (page #s)
2. descriptions of new characters (page #s) predictions about the plot or characters
3. explanations of any symbolism, allusions, imagery, metaphors, etc. (page #s)
4. clarifications of the book's themes as they start to emerge (page #s)
5. commentary or your personal reaction to events or characters
6. questions about confusing parts
7. evaluation of the author's writing style and story development

Part 2: You will complete a Novel Overview [50 points] in which you answer the following questions about the novel. You may not be able to answer all of the questions until you are finished with the book.

1. Bibliographic information. Follow this format EXACTLY! [5 points]

Author's Last Name, First Name. Underlined Title of the Book. Place of

Publication: Publishing Company Name, Year of Publication.

**Example:** Dalyrimple, Sarah. Why I Became a Teacher. Cleveland: Cleveland School of Architecture and Designs Publishers, 2010.

1. Explain the meaning of the title in a 7-10 sentence paragraph, using support from the novel. If the meaning of your title is obvious, like Julius Caesar, then create a new title for your book. Explain why it would be appropriate. [5 points]
2. Describe the setting in a 5-7 sentence paragraph. Be sure to mention: season of the year,   
   amount of time the novel spans, location in the universe (sci-fi), place where most action   
   occurs, cultural background of characters, political system, etc. as appropriate for your   
   novel. [5 points]
3. Explain the main conflict in the novel in detail using examples from the rising action, climax, and conclusion. [10 points]
4. Identify the protagonist and map out their character development by listing 3 physical traits, 3 actions, and 3 mental traits (habits, opinions, beliefs, etc.) of that character. Provide one example from the story to support each characterization. [15 points]
5. In a 5-7 sentence paragraph, explain how the conclusion of the novel leads up to the last   
   sentence (include it). Is this sentence appropriate as "the last sentence" of your book?   
   Why or why not? [10 points]

**Part 3:** You will write and present either a "next chapter" or an "alternative ending" to your novel. Be sure that it is 500-700 words long, or about a page to a page and a half. I will expect you to maintain character traits and follow a logical series of events. [60 points]

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Book: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**POST-SECONDARY PATHWAYS**

**INDEPENDENT NOVEL RUBRIC I**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **READING JOURNAL** | **5** | **4** | **3** | **2** | **1** |
| Summaries of the events in the plot are complete. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Descriptions of characters give a clear sense of their role in the development of the story. A clear distinction is made between major and minor characters. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Predictions about the plot or characters are based on specific support. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Explanations of symbolism, allusions, imagery, metaphors are clear. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Clarifications of the book’s themes as the start to emerge are based on clear support. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Commentary on personal reaction to the events or characters is supported. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Questions are posed about confusing parts. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Evaluations about the author’s writing style and story development are supported. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Subtotal of 6 x 4 | /120 | | | | |
| **ADVERTISEMENT** | **5** | **4** | **3** | **2** | **1** |
| **A 60 second maximum overview of plot and theme.** |  |  |  |  |  |
| An explanation of how a 17 or 18 year old student would connect with/relate to the book. |  |  |  |  |  |
| An explanation of how the book teaches a valuable lesson about life. |  |  |  |  |  |
| An example of the author’s writing style. |  |  |  |  |  |
| An example of symbolism, allusions, imagery, metaphors |  |  |  |  |  |
| A visual or audio aid. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Subtotal of 30 x 2 | /60 | | | | |

**TOTAL POINTS: /180**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Book: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Score: /230

**POST-SECONDARY PATHWAYS**

**INDEPENDENT NOVEL RUBRIC I**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **READING JOURNAL** | **5** | **4** | **3** | **2** | **1** |
| Summaries of the events in the plot are complete. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Descriptions of characters give a clear sense of their role in the development of the story. A clear distinction is made between major and minor characters. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Predictions about the plot or characters are based on specific support. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Explanations of symbolism, allusions, imagery, metaphors are clear. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Clarifications of the book’s themes as the start to emerge are based on clear support. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Commentary on reaction to the events or characters is supported. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Questions are posed about confusing parts. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Evaluations about the author’s writing style and story development are supported. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Subtotal of 6 x 4 | /120 | | | | |
| **NOVEL OVERVIEW** |  |  |  |  |  |
| Bibliographic information. | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Explain the meaning of the title in a 7-10 sentence paragraph, using support from the novel. If the meaning of your title is obvious, like Julius Caesar, then create a new title for your book. Explain why it would be appropriate. | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Describe the setting in a 5-7 sentence paragraph. Be sure to mention: season of the year, amount of time the novel spans, location in the universe (sci-fi), place where most action  occurs, cultural background of characters, political system, etc. as appropriate for your novel. | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Explain the main conflict in the novel in detail using examples from the rising action, climax, and conclusion. | 10 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 |
| Identify the protagonist and map out their character development by listing 3 physical traits, 3 actions, and 3 mental traits (habits, opinions, beliefs, etc.) of that character. Provide one example from the story to support each characterization. | 15 | 13 | 12 | 10 | 9 |
| A In a 5-7 sentence paragraph, explain how the conclusion of the novel leads up to the last sentence (include it). Is this sentence appropriate as "the last sentence" of your book?  Why or why not? | 10 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 |
| **Subtotal** | **/50** | | | | |
| **NEXT CHAPTER/LATERNATE ENDING** |  | | | | |
| Be sure that it is 500-700 words long, about a page to a page and a half. You must maintain character traits and follow a logical series of events. |
| **Subtotal** | **/60** | | | | |