

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_ PERIOD \_\_\_\_\_

### THE MDOLC:

**MEANING**--What you have to say (content and ideas)

1. Relates to and answers the question asked
2. Indicates a correct, **close reading** of text
3. Offers depth of analysis
4. Makes insightful connections
5. Thesis statement presents a thought-provoking argument

**DEVELOPMENT**--How well you convince your reader

1. Provides appropriate, specific details of support
2. Selects and uses effective references and **quotations with signal phrases** parenthetically documented.
3. Provides commentary on and **explanation** of significance of evidence as related to the thesis
4. Demonstrates differentiation and discernment; avoids summarization
5. Applies correct use of **literary terminology** as needed.

**ORGANIZATION**--How you structure your argument

1. Introductory paragraph moves from general ideas to **specific thesis**
2. Thesis statement clearly states **topic** and **argument**
3. Employs effective **topic sentences** that refer to thesis and topic of paragraph
4. Body paragraphs delineate the validations in the order presented in the thesis
5. **Concluding sentences** restate the significance of evidence in support of thesis; language from thesis argument is included
6. Uses **transition words** and phrases for clarity and coherence
7. Brings essay to strong **conclusion** that extends argument

**LANGUAGE**--How you convey meaning with words

1. Uses language that is precise and unambiguous
2. Uses effective syntax including sentence variety of openings, lengths, and kinds
3. Demonstrates awareness of audience; writes in **third person**
4. Eliminates errors that interfere with comprehension

**CONVENTIONS**--How you follow the rules of the process

1. Shows evidence of editing and rewriting
2. Adheres to correct use of grammar
3. Follows conventions of spelling, punctuation, capitalization
4. Gives attention to legibility and format, including a header (presentation)

