

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Essay \_\_\_\_\_

## IHS Expository Essay Rubric

### Format of the Essay:

#### \_\_\_/9 Formatting and Grammar (3 pts each)

\_\_\_ **Formatting:** double spaced, MLA formatted (12 pt font, times new roman) with your name, my name, class or assignment, date, running header with your last name and automatically-generated page number on the upper right. The first line of each paragraph is indented and internal citations are in MLA format

\_\_\_ **Grammar:** clear and complete sentences, specific subjects instead of “you”, capitalized first letter in proper nouns including characters’ names, and capitalized first letter of first word in each sentence.

\_\_\_ **Formality/Academic Register:** This essay uses formal academic language throughout. This includes avoiding the informal “I” and “you”, using formal word choices like “mysterious atmosphere”, and referring to the author by last name throughout most of the essay (use first and last when you first introduce the author in the introduction, otherwise, use last name only).

#### \_\_\_/9 Overall logic, understanding and analysis (3 pts each)

##### **This essay...**

\_\_\_ Is an academic **argument** rather than a summary, throughout, but is also provable by using evidence from the text at hand.

\_\_\_ Is logically consistent in the way that the topic sentences/paragraphs prove the thesis true. Make sure that you have provided enough support for your thesis to prove it true.

\_\_\_ Is clearly based on an understanding of *the novel itself*. The essay should show a clear and accurate understanding of *what Hosseini writes in the novel*. It should demonstrate a clear understanding of the 50 years of history that are highlighted in the novel regarding the politics in Afghanistan. It should **not** be based on what secondary sources like Wikipedia or Sparknotes say about the novel.

## **Elements of Each Paragraph**

### **\_\_\_\_/6 Introduction (2 points each)**

\_\_\_\_ Attention Grabber: a sentence or two that draws interest toward the topic of the essay

\_\_\_\_ Establish General Topic: Four to five sentences that simply and clearly establish the title of the work, the author's first and last name, some background information on the plot of the work and the general focus of the essay.

\_\_\_\_ Thesis Statement: A clear and complete statement of the main argument of the essay. This will be the last sentence of the introduction, and it should provide a specific focus for the rest of the essay. It should also answer the given prompt.

### **\_\_\_\_/21 Body Paragraphs: (3 pts each)**

\_\_\_\_ Topic sentence for each body paragraph that introduces a reason why the thesis is true.

\_\_\_\_ Two to three sentences that give thorough, accurate and specific support for the topic sentence of each body paragraph.

\_\_\_\_ First specific reference to the text, which is either a brief quote with citation or a paraphrased section of text with citation.

\_\_\_\_ Three to four sentences that give thorough, accurate and specific support for the argument you are trying to support with your quote or paraphrase.

\_\_\_\_ Second specific reference to the text, which is either a brief quote with citation or a paraphrased section of text with citation.

\_\_\_\_ Three to four sentences that give thorough, accurate and specific support for the argument you are trying to support with your quote or paraphrase.

\_\_\_\_ Concluding Sentence that reminds the audience of how the paragraph proved the topic sentence true.

### **\_\_\_\_/6 Conclusion (2 pts each)**

\_\_\_\_ Main points summarized.

\_\_\_\_ Restatement of Thesis.

\_\_\_\_ Ending sentence that concludes the essay with why the ideas in the thesis matter.

**Total Score \_\_\_\_\_/51**

