Winter's Bone Essay

Film Analysis and Composition: Maxfield

Prompt: Is *Winter's Bone* modern film noir?

Directions: Using your notes from *Winter's Bone* and from our film noir discussion, write a compelling argument either for or against *Winter's Bone* as an example of film noir. Include relevant examples from the movie to back up your opinion. You may wish to compare *Winter's Bone* to other recent films or other film noir, but this is not a requirement.

Organization: A minimum of 5 paragraphs

Introduction: Begin with a strong attention grabber – a quote, a question, or a vivid scene description from the movie. Finish the paragraph with a well-built thesis that takes a stance on your opinion.

Three or more body paragraphs: Each body paragraph should start with a topic sentence that states one specific reason for your essay's opinion. Multiple detailed and precise examples from the movie should support each topic sentence. Include transitional words when you start each body paragraph.

Conclusion: Restate (say it in a new way) your thesis statement. Include your opinion about the movie. Finish with a strong clincher sentence relating to film noir.

Conventions/Presentation: Please type your paper – size 12 font, double-spaced.

Scoring: This essay is worth 100 points; the rubric is on the back of this sheet. Please turn in with your essay.

6+1 Trait ® Writing Rubric

	5	3	1
Ideas	This paper is clear and focused. It holds the reader's attention. Relevant details and quotes enrich the central theme.	The writer is beginning to define the topic, even though development is still basic or general.	As yet, the paper has no clear sense of purpose or central theme. To extract meaning from the text, the reader must make inferences based on sketchy or missing details.
Organization	The organization enhances and showcases the central idea or theme. The order, structure, or presentation of information is compelling and moves the reader through the text.	The organizational structure is strong enough to move the reader through the text without too much confusion.	The writing lacks a clear sense of direction. Ideas, details, or events seem strung together in a loose or random fashion; there is no identifiable internal structure.
Voice	The writer speaks directly to the reader in a way that is individual, compelling, and engaging. The writer crafts the writing with an awareness and respect for the audience and the purpose for writing.	The writer seems sincere but not fully engaged or involved. The result is pleasant or even personable, but not compelling.	The writer seems indifferent, uninvolved, or distanced from the topic and/or the audience.
Word Choice	Words convey the intended message in a precise, interesting, and natural way. The words are powerful and engaging.	The language is functional, even if it lacks much energy. It is easy to figure out the writer's meaning on a general level.	The writer struggles with a limited vocabulary, searching for words to convey meaning.
Sentence Fluency	The writing has an easy flow, rhythm, and cadence. Sentences are well built, with strong and varied structure that invites expressive oral reading.	The text hums along with a steady beat, but tends to be more pleasant or businesslike than musical, more mechanical than fluid.	The reader has to practice quite a bit in order to give this paper a fair interpretive reading.
Conventions	The writer demonstrates a good grasp of standard writing conventions (e.g., spelling, punctuation, capitalization, grammar, usage, paragraphing) and uses conventions effectively to enhance readability. Errors tend to be so few that just minor touchups would get this piece ready to publish.	The writer shows reasonable control over a limited range of standard writing conventions. Conventions are sometimes handled well and enhance readability; at other times, errors are distracting and impair readability.	Errors in spelling, punctuation, capitalization, usage, and grammar and/or paragraphing repeatedly distract the reader and make the text difficult to read.
Presentation	The form and presentation of the text enhances the ability for the reader to understand and connect with the message. It is pleasing to the eye.	The writer's message is understandable in this format.	The reader receives a garbled message due to problems relating to the presentation of the text.