THE TAMING OF THE SHREW

BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

"I will be free, even to the uttermost, as I please, in words."

The Taming of the Shrew
Most of Shakespeare plays are written in blank verse; however like every good writer, Shakespeare matches his style to what he is saying. There are times when he changes from Blank Verse to prose. Often he does this to denote characters of lesser classes whose speech is more gaudy and uncouth as a consequence. Whether it be a change to prose or a couple of rhymes, when Shakespeare shifts from blank verse it is an indication to look for him to introduce or comment on an important theme. An example of this is Shakespeare’s introductory character: Sly. Sly will begin by speaking in prose but later shift. As you begin to read The Taming of the Shrew look for this shift. See if you can come up with a theory as to what Shakespeare’s purpose is behind this shift.

- Sly begins to speak in verse with the line: (Provide the line and citation)

- Look at what the line says, why has Shakespeare done this?
Taming of the Shrew

Introduction
Scene i

Players: Sly, Hostess, Lord, 1st Huntsman, 2nd Huntsman, Servant, Player

1. Who is Sly? How does he appear at the beginning of the play?

2. Describe the Lord’s plan?

3. How does the Lord treat others? What might this suggest about relationships between the classes?

Introduction
Scene ii

Players: Sly, 1st servant, 2nd Servant, 3rd Servant, Lord, Page (Dressed as Lady), Messenger

1. Go back to the “Blank Verse” sheet.

2. How does Sly react to his treatment?

3. What thematic questions have been opened up through the introduction?
**Taming of the Shrew**  
Literary Element: **Puns**

Find the Definition of Pun:

Shakespeare’s audience was not looking for spiritual enlightenment, nor were they looking for fine displays of great art; they were at the theater for one reason, to be entertained. Shakespeare was a master; he mixed not only high comedy but extremely low comedy into every one of his plays. He liked to make audiences groan, in fact often a theater patron would show up just to see how low he could go this time, but in doing this Shakespeare achieved something remarkable, by giving the low he made the high seem even higher, and in giving the comedy he made the tragedy seem even greater.

Puns are groaners, rarely do we hear them and laugh. They are awful, but we love them. Shakespeare uses puns throughout his plays with Mercutio of *Romeo and Juliet* being one of his most famous punsters.

*After being mortally wounded by Tybalt, Mercutio responds to Romeo’s inquiries as to the severity of his injuries:*

No, 'tis not so deep as a well, nor so wide as a church door; but 'tis enough, 'twill serve. Ask for me to-morrow, and you shall find me a grave man.

Imagine standing listening to these final words of a dying man, trying desperately not to chuckle. Through this genius with language Shakespeare manages to turn death into a joke which he will play on through the rest of the work.

- As you read Act one look for examples of pun and record them here:

- What is the affect of being a “Punster” in the play? How do the puns often make a character look to the audience?
Taming of the Shrew
Act I Scene i

Players: Lucentio, Tranio, Baptista, Gremio, Katharina, Hortensio, Bianca, Biondello

1. What is Baptista’s plan to find Katharina a husband? How to Gremio and Hortensio respond to this plan?

2. Provide your first impression of Katharina. Give specifics in this description.

3. What about Bianca attracts Lucentio, and by extension her other suitors? What specific information from the play caused you to say this?

4. What specifically can you say about the men’s speech about Katharina before she leaves?

5. What specifically can you say about the men’s speech about Katharina once she leaves?

6. What is the plan that Gremio and Hortensio come up with in order to marry Bianca?

7. Describe Lucentio’s plan to win Bianca.

8. Compare and contrast the two daughters. How does the way in which each is treated suggest about social norms of the time? Is Shakespeare buying into these social conventions?
Players: Petruchio, Gremio, Hortensio, Gremio, Lucentio, Tranio, Biondello

1. Why might Shakespeare have chosen to begin this scene with an incident so full of "awful" puns?

2. What has Petruchio come to town to do? What does it suggest about his views of women?

3. Both Petruchio and Hortensio have their own purposes in pursuing their respective women, which motive seems less honorable?

4. Of Lucentio and Gremio, who seems to do more of the planning? What does this suggest?

5. In your opinion, has Petruchio underestimated the challenge he faces?

6. Paraphrase the allusion about Hercules on page 31. Why is this statement appealing to Petruchio?
“But in the other’s silence do I see
Maid’s mild behavior and sobriety.”

1. 
2. 
3. 

“…I have thrust myself into this maze,
Haply to wive and thrive as best I may:
Crowns in my purse I have and goods at home,
And so am come abroad to see the world.

1. 
2. 
3. 

“Her only fault, and that is faults enough,
Is that she is intolerable curst
And shrewd and forward, so beyond all measure
That, were my state far worser than it is
I would not wed her for a mine of gold.”

1. 
2. 
3. 

“I know she is an irksome brawling scold:
If that be all, masters, I hear no harm.”

1. 
2. 
3.
Persuasive Paragraph Act 1:

At the end of each Act you will be asked to write a persuasive paragraph in response to the prompt. This will make up most of your homework for the unit, so take your time with these and plan them out, think about the ways you will prove your point.

These paragraphs must be typed and turned on the due dates.

Standards for typed material:

- Double Spaced
- Times New Roman (Font)
- 12 point (Font)
- Standard Margins
- Name and Date Top Right Corner (Single Spaced)
- Title (Centered a line beneath Name and Date)

Remember to follow standard procedure for persuasive writing:

- A hypothesis (topic sentence)
- Evidence (this takes the form of a quotation)
- Your explanation (explain how the evidence demonstrates the hypothesis is true)
- Avoid the use of: “I think” write in the 3rd person.

Your paragraphs will be graded using the Persuasive Paragraph Response rubric.

Prompt:

Which sister has Shakespeare made more desirable to you? Explain.
Find the definition of Irony:

Like many other writers, Shakespeare knew the value of Irony. He uses this literary element throughout his works in many different ways and in many different ways. Mostly he uses this technique for its ability to reverse the viewer's expectations. In most of Shakespeare's plays he utilizes opposites to enhance what he is driving at, such as the comedy with which he begins the “tragedy” of Romeo and Juliet, he often utilizes Irony to produce a similar affect.

Irony comes in 3 different forms:

1. **Situational Irony:** (This is the form that most people are thinking of when they say: “Isn't this ironic?”) Situational Irony = a sudden reversal or incongruity between what is expected and what actually does happen.

2. **Verbal Irony:** = The contrast/incongruity between what is said and what is meant. (The line between this and sarcasm is often blurred)

3. **Dramatic Irony:** = This is when the audience/reader/(occasionally)other characters know something a character does not know him/herself.

Throughout the Play Taming of the Shrew find each type of Irony

Situational: ____________________________________________________________

Verbal:  _______________________________________________________________

Dramatic:  _____________________________________________

________________
Taming of the Shrew
Act II Scene i

Players: Bianca, Katharina, Baptista, Gremio, Petruchio, Tranio, Hortensio,

Day One:

1. Describe Bianca’s attraction to men. What is so attractive to her about her suitors?

2. Why is Katharina so upset with her sister? What emotion drives her enmity?

3. What does Katharina accuse Baptista of trying to arrange at Bianca’s wedding? What do these exchanges make us think of Katharina?

4. How does Petruchio get people to do his bidding?

5. When do characters within the play revert to speaking in prose?

6. What has Tranio brought as a proposal to Bianca?

7. What is the conversation between Baptista and Petruchio reminiscent of? How might this make Katharina feel?

8. What has happened to Hortensio? What does this reveal about the situation Petruchio is entering into?
9. What is Petruchio’s response to the developments with Hortensio?

Day Two:

1. (Answer before beginning) Does Petruchio underestimate Katharina or is he clever?

2. What is the difference between Katharina versus Kate? Is Petruchio brilliant or foolish for this tactic?

3. How does Petruchio treat Katharina during their first encounter? (Be Specific) Why is this an effective technique for dealing with her?

4. Although Petruchio continues to battle with Kate as other men have what is the most significant difference in his behavior toward her?

5. When Petruchio announces their engagement how does Kate react?

6. What might Kate’s silence imply when Petruchio insists?
7. What do Gremio and Tranio think of the match between Petruchio and Katharina?

8. What does Baptisa look to sevure for Biance? Is this better or worse than he looked to get for Katharina? Explain.

9. Why is Tranio assured of winning the bidding war for Bianca’s hand?

10. Which young man does Baptista seem to favor? Explain how this is seen?

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_Taming of the Shrew_

_Actor II_

_Quotes to Know and Love_

“Good sister, wrong me not, nor

1. __________________________
2. __________________________
3. __________________________

“Proceed in practice with my younger daughter;
She’s apt to lean and thankful for good turns.”

1. __________________________
2. __________________________
3. __________________________

“That, hearing of her beauty and her wit,
Her affability and bashful modesty,
Her wondrous qualities and mild behavior, 
Am bold to show myself a forward guest 
Within your house, to make mine eye the witness 
Of that report which I so oft have heard."

1. __________________________
2. __________________________
3. __________________________

"Thus in plain terms: your father hath consented 
That you shall be my wife, your dowry 'greed on, 
And will you, nill you, I will marry you."

1. __________________________
2. __________________________
3. __________________________

"For I am he am born to tame you Kate, 
And bring you from a wild Kate to a Kate 
Conformable as other household Kates."
Respond to the following prompt using the same instructions from Act I’s persuasive paragraph.

Do some planning for this paragraph:

Create 3 questions to ask yourself before you begin writing a response to the prompt below.

1. ____________________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________

2. ____________________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________

3. ____________________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________

Prompt:

Discuss the “proposal” of marriage from Petruchio. In the battle of words, who comes out on top? What do you see developing within this relationship?
Compare and contrast:

The task of comparing and contrasting is a useful activity to deepen our understanding of an author’s theme, and in studying Shakespeare this is no different. Shakespeare often uses characters who have great similarities with one or a few aspects of their characters diverging drastically, these differences often suggest the lesson (theme) Shakespeare is developing about human existence. While the differences are often the most important aspect of the exercise, the similarities are often the elements which keep us from coming to mistaken solutions, they are therefore extremely important to define and specifically understand.

Some terms need to be made crystal clear.

- By Compare we mean what is the same about the items. (e.g., Bianca and Katharina are both daughters of Baptista [now take this thought to its logical conclusion] this means they are similar in social standing, education, and upbringing.

- By Contrast we mean what is significantly different about the items. (e.g., one is named Bianca and the other Katharina is not significantly different in any meaningful way.

Throughout act III and IV compare and contrast the relationships and characters of Bianca and Katharina.
Act III Scene i

Players: Lucentio, Hortensio, Bianca

Setting: Jump six days to Saturday, one day before Katharina's wedding.

1. Explain the relationships between Bianca and her suitors. Who has control of the situations?

2. Explain how Lucentio and Hortensio use their positions as tutors to court Bianca.

3. What does Bianca think of their efforts? What does this suggest about her character?

4. Compare the courtship of Bianca to the courtship of Katharina. 
   *(Do this on the Lit Elements sheet.)*

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Taming of the Shrew
Act III Scene ii

Players: Baptista, Gremio, Tranio, Katharina, Bianca, Lucentio, Biondello, Petruchio, Grumio

1. What is Petruchio’s purpose is arriving late to his own wedding?

2. What does Katharina accuse Petruchio of when he is late?
3. What does Katharina’s retreat “weeping” suggest about her?

4. How does Biondello serve to lighten the mood when he enters the scene?

5. How is Petruchio dressed when he arrives at his wedding? Why might he do this?

6. How does Baptista respond to Petruchio’s appearance?

7. What does Tranio beg Petruchio to do before seeing Katharina? What is Petruchio’s response to this request? Does this begin to shift our opinion of Petruchio?

8. What has happened during the marriage ceremony? Who takes whose side in the aftermath?

9. How does the substitution of roles at the wedding feast, which Kate and Petruchio has left, act as foreshadowing?

10. Although Petruchio has been accused, by feminist theorists, of not respecting Kate’s wishes, how could his actions be seen as a fight to liberate Kate from a position of oppression?
“Why gentleman, you do me double wrong,
To strive for that which resteth in my choice:
I am no breeching scholar in the schools;
I’ll not be tied to hours nor ‘pointed times,
But learn my lessons as I please myself.”

1. _______________________
2. _______________________
3.

“Call you this gamut? Tut, I like it not:
Old fashions please me best; I am not so nice,
To change true rules for old inventions.”

1. _______________________
2. _______________________
3.

“Why, Petruchio is coming in a new hat and an old jerkin, a pair of old breeches thrice turned, a pair of boots that have been candle-cases, on buckled, another laced, and old rusty sword ta’en out of the town-armory, with a broken hilt, and chapeless; with two broken points: his horse hipped with an old mothy saddle and stirrups of no kindred…”

1. _______________________
2. _______________________
3.
“...what occasion of import
Hath all so long detain'd you from your wife,
And sent you hither so unlike yourself?”

1. _______________________
2. _______________________
3. _______________________

“To me she's married, not unto my clothes…”

1. _______________________
2. _______________________
3. _______________________

“I see a woman may be made a fool,
If she had not a spirit to resist.”

1. _______________________
2. _______________________
3. _______________________

“But for my bonny Kate, she must with me.
Nay, look not big, nor stamp, nor stare, nor fret;
I will be master of what is mine own.
She is my goods, my chattels; she is my house,
My household stuff, my field, my barn,
My horse, my ox, my ass, my anything.
And here she stands, touch her whoever dare.
I'll bring mine action on the proudest he
That stops my way in Padua.—Grumio,
Draw forth thy weapon, we are beset with thieves.
Rescue thy mistress if thou be a man.—
Fear not, sweet wench, they shall not touch thee, Kate.
I'll buckler thee against a million.”

1. _______________________
2. _______________________
3. _______________________
Respond to the following prompt using the same instructions from Act I’s persuasive paragraph.

Prompt:

The title of the play is *Taming of the Shrew*, is this a bit of a misnomer? Will Petruchio in fact “Tame” Kate, or does he even want to?
1. Explain how the servants serve to “lighten the mood” at the beginning of the scene.

2. According to Grumio, what has happened on Katharina and Petruchio’s journey home on their wedding night? How has Petruchio treated Katharina throughout?

3. How does Petruchio act (and treat his servants) when he returns home? How does Katharina react to his behavior?

4. What is Petruchio’s reason for acting in the way he does?

5. At the end of the scene Petruchio not only explains his motive for acting in the way he does, but also give a glimpse into his future plans. What else is in store for Kate in the near future?

6. Why is Petruchio doing all this to Kate? Why does he want to change her if she gained his admiration through her quick tongue and wit?

7. Are Petruchio’s actions those of a hero or a villain at this point in the play?
1. How does Tranio help Lucentio’s pursuit of Bianca in this scene?

2. What does Hortensio decide to do before he leaves? What is he off to do when he exits?

3. How will Tranio use the Pendent?

4. What claim does Tranio make to explain why his “real” father will not come?

5. What is the one lingering flaw with Lucentio and Tranio’s plan? Suggest some possible solutions.

1. What is Katharina’s physical state at the beginning of the scene?
2. What infuriates Kate the most about Petruchio’s behavior? What is this an example of?

3. Explain Grumio’s behavior at the beginning of the act. What does this signify?

4. In what ways does Kate demonstrate “progress”? How does Petruchio encourage this?

5. On what grounds does Petruchio reject each item? In what way is this in keeping with his speech throughout the previous act? What does this than suggest is his true meaning?

6. How does Petruchio get Kate to say kind and gentle things? Why is this significant?

7. How does Petruchio’s asking Hortensio to pay the tailor aid him in his plan?

8. What does Petruchio reveal of his intentions in his last big speech in this scene? Will changing the way Kate “appears” change her nature?

9. In I.ii Grumio said Kate need to worry about Petruchio not the other way around, how is this statement both true and untrue?
Taming of the Shrew
Act IV Scene iv

Players: Tranio, Pendant, Biondello, Baptista, Biondello, Lucentio

1. What is the plan for the wedding between Lucentio and Bianca?

Taming of the Shrew
Act IV Scene v

Players: Petruchio, Katharina, Hortensio, Vincentio

1. At the beginning of the scene, what do Petruchio and Katharina “argue” about? Who is correct? (Don’t think too hard.)

2. Katharina is bending to Petruchio’s will because of his ridiculous behavior; however, is he unreasonable in his overall request?

3. Who is Vincentio? What problem can you predict might happen?
Taming of the Shrew
Act IV

Quotes to Know and Love

“He kills her in her own humour.”
1. _______________________
2. _______________________
3.

“When you are gentle, you shall have one too,
And not till then.”
1. _______________________
2. _______________________
3.

“Well, come, my Kate; we will unto your father’s
Even in these honest mean habiliments:
Our purses shal be proud, our garment poor;
For ‘tis the mind that makes the body rich;
And as the sun breaks through the darkest clouds,
So honour peereth in the meanest habit.”
1. _______________________
2. _______________________
3.

“And God be blessed, it is the blessed sun,
But sun it is not when you say it is not.
And the moon changes even as your mind.
What you will have it named, even that it is,
And so it shall be still for Katherine.”
1. _______________________
2. _______________________
3.
Persuasive Paragraph Act IV:

Respond to the following prompt using the same instructions from Act I’s persuasive paragraph.

Prompt:

Many critics mark the sun/moon scene in the road to Padua (scene 5) as the turning point in the play which indicates Kate's taming. What is different about this scene? If she is tamed, what is she submitting to? Is it really a "submission," or can it be interpreted in other ways?
Taming of the Shrew
Act V
Lit Elements

Find the def. of a Character Foil:

Shakespeare uses character foils the same way in which he mixes comedy and tragedy and uses irony throughout his plays. Katharina is not only a traditional Shakespearian heroine on the lines of Beatrice of Much Ado About Nothing or Viola of Twelfth Night, she acts as a foil to the other women in the play. In the end, all the women wanted the same thing; however, the way in which they treat the thing they had so much wanted suggests what Shakespeare has to say about Marriage on the whole.

Recognizing and interpreting a character foil is an ending point to the Compare and Contrast exercise.

The comparison of two characters proves that you have characters with sufficient similarities to be called “foils.” Where the contrast of the characters mixed with the side the authorial voice takes suggests the lesson to be learned from the foil. Therefore to interpret a foil take the difference which the character foils exhibit and determine which trait the author favors.

Explain how Katharina acts as a character foil to Bianca. What theme about marriage does Shakespeare develop through these two characters? (Do this at the end of the play.)
1. What blunder has been created by Lucentio’s schemes? What might Shakespeare be suggesting by this?

2. Who settle the “father” dispute? Why has Baptista been taken in and not seen the truth?

3. Baptista seems to take the revelation that Lucentio is not who he claim to be pretty lightly, why might he not mind being duped?

4. How has the name “Kate” changed?

5. What does this kiss signify at the end of the scene? Remember that Katharina originally baulks, why?
Players: Baptista, Vincentio, Gremio, Pedant, Lucentio, Bianca, Petruchio, Katharina, Hortensio, the Widow, Tranio, Biondello, Grumio

1. How has Petruchio and Kate’s relationship changed in this scene? Why might this change have happened at this point, not at any other?

2. How does Petruchio react to Kate’s “obscene” behavior when she attacks the widow? Why has this “changed”? Has it in fact changed?

3. What is the bet that the men make?

4. Does Petruchio make this bet out of confidence or faith? What is the difference? Is he correct in having this?

5. How much is bet on this wager?

6. Why won’t Bianca come when called? Was this predictable? What does this suggest about the future of her and Lucentio’s relationship?

7. What event demonstrates Kate’s newfound role?
8. Have all three women’s views of marriage “changed” in the end?

9. How are Petruchio and Katharina similar? What does this suggest about their future?

10. Why has Petruchio “tamed” Kate? Or, has he in fact “tamed” her at all?

11. In the end, how has Kate’s behavior changed?

12. Which relationship will work out best for each involved? What is Shakespeare saying about marriage? Is this a positive or a negative view of marriage for the 21st century?
"Nay, I will give thee a kiss: now pray thee, love, stay."

1. _________________________
2. _________________________
3. _________________________

"Now, in good sadness, son Petruchio, I think thou hast the veriest shrew of all.'

'Well, I say no: and therefore for assurance Let's each one send unto his wife; And he whose wife is most obedient to come at first when he doth send for her, Shall win the wager which we will propose."

1. _________________________
2. _________________________
3. _________________________

"Marry, peace it bodes, and love and quiet life, And awful rule and right supremacy; And, to be short, what not, that's sweet and happy?"

1. _________________________
2. _________________________
3. _________________________

"The more fool you, for laying on my duty."

1. _________________________
2. _________________________
3. _________________________
“Thy husband is thy lord, thy life, thy keeper,
Thy head, thy sovereign; one that cares for thee,
And for thy maintenance commits his body
To painful labour both by sea and land…”

1. __________________________
2. __________________________
3. __________________________

“Such duty as the subject owes the prince
Even such a woman oweth to her husband;
And when she is forward, peevish, sullen, sour,
And not obedient to his honest will
What is she but a foul contending rebel
And graceless traitor to her loving lord?”

1. __________________________
2. __________________________
3. __________________________
Persuasive Paragraph Act V:

Respond to the following prompt using the same instructions from Act I’s persuasive paragraph.

Prompt:

Compare and contrast the characters of Katharina and Bianca. What is Shakespeare suggesting about a relationship and what makes a strong one.
Now that you have finished *The Taming of the Shrew*, it is time to put your observations and discoveries into academic form by writing an essay.

Assignment Requirements:

- Write a five paragraph literary essay.
  - Essays should be driven by a thesis.
  - Essays should be an analysis of an aspect of the play, I was there when we read it in class, I don’t need to hear a summary.
- Essays should follow the standard I-B-C format.
  - I will focus most of my attention on the thesis and body paragraphs for this essay.
- All essays should be typed and turned in through clicking on the assignment tab in Moodle.
  - If you are having trouble visit the “How To…” part of the website.
- Essays should be written in size 12 font using Times New Roman type. (Putting it in a bigger font, merely irritates me while grading your paper; I recommend avoiding this.)
- Essays are Due: __________________________
  - If you wish to have a rough draft looked at, its due date is __________________.
    - Rough drafts can be made into final drafts without changes by letting me know you wish to do this.

*This assignment will be graded using the Literary Analysis Rubric. (On back)*

Essay Topic:

- What does Shakespeare have to say about relationships in this play? Is his view of gender relationships a throwback to a bygone era, or are his ideas useful in today’s society?
- In the end of the play, who has the best relationship? Which one would you rather be in?
# Basic Essay Rubric

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>18-20 Pts (Above)</th>
<th>16-17 Pts (The Standard)</th>
<th>14-15 Pts (Near)</th>
<th>12-13 Pts (Below)</th>
<th>0-11 Pts</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thesis</strong></td>
<td>The thesis <em>digs deep</em> into the work or subject and states a clear and coherent argument that covers more than the obvious.</td>
<td>The thesis states a clear and coherent argument in response to the assignment that argues more than the obvious but does not dig deep.</td>
<td>The thesis has a clear point but merely states the obvious.</td>
<td>The thesis is confused and unclear, or is missing a piece.</td>
<td>The thesis has no point.</td>
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<td><strong>Evidence</strong></td>
<td>The evidence covers all aspects of the standard. Furthermore, it enriches the topic and strengthens the argument by use of rich and evocative detail.</td>
<td>Each body paragraph employs a variety of evidence including at least one quotation that clearly supports the evidence but contains no other evidence. Some introductory information may be missing. Some needed evidence is absent.</td>
<td>The body paragraphs lack quotations.</td>
<td>Citations lacking.</td>
<td>The body paragraphs lack quotations.</td>
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<td><strong>Organization</strong></td>
<td>The introduction moves smoothly from general to specific, and the conclusion moves smoothly from specific to general. Each body paragraph begins with a topic sentence and transitional sentence or sentences. The argument proceeds in a logical order.</td>
<td>The introduction moves smoothly from general to specific, and the conclusion moves smoothly from specific to general. Each body paragraph has transition and topic sentences; however, the sequence of paragraphs lacks ideal flow.</td>
<td>The introduction and conclusion have proper form. Transitions may be lacking, but each body paragraph has a topic sentence. Logical order may be lacking.</td>
<td>The introduction and conclusion lack some aspect of proper form or transitions are missing entirely though topic sentences are still apparent.</td>
<td>One of the three criteria listed above is missing entirely.</td>
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<td><strong>Expression</strong></td>
<td>The language follows all the aspects of the standard and has flawless diction. Furthermore, this language invigorates the reader through its use of metaphor, simile, and vocabulary.</td>
<td>The language clearly and precisely analyzes the topic. It uses active verbs and maintains present or present perfect tense. The language may have some flaws in diction but invigorates the writing through the use of a varied vocabulary.</td>
<td>The language lacks precision or clarity, or it has excessive use of the passive voice or the verb to be as the main verb. It does not maintain a constant tense.</td>
<td>The language violates two or more of the above guidelines.</td>
<td>The language violates three or more of the above guidelines.</td>
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<td><strong>Discussion of Topic</strong></td>
<td>The essay discusses the topic accurately and completely. The essay goes beyond this to offer unique insight into the topic fully supported by the evidence presented in the paper.</td>
<td>The essay discusses the topic accurately and completely. The discussion fulfills all the expectations of an academic discussion of the issue/topic with evidence to back it up.</td>
<td>The essay discusses the topic accurately but leaves out portions of the argument or discussion. The discussion is supported by evidence; however, it may not preclude a challenge from an objector.</td>
<td>The essay discusses the topic, but significant portions of the topic may be left out, or major errors in forming a hypothesis may have been made. Or the insufficient evidence has been presented to support the discussion.</td>
<td>The essay is not on topic or is only loosely on topic. The central question of the topic has not been addressed.</td>
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