### Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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|  | | EWRT 2: Critical Response Essay Rubric |
| **1.** | | Adherence to the Assignment |
|  | | * The piece is a critical response essay in which you both agree and disagree with aspects of *Fast Food Nation* * The essay identifies, evaluates, and compares alternate points of view apparent in Schlosser’s findings * In this essay, you make at least one major concession (maximum 2) where you explore an assumption or conclusion Schlosser makes and show in detail why you agree with him * But then, you must refute one (no more than two) assumptions or conclusions Schlosser makes and offer a sound counter argument using solid logic and outside research to show how a finding might be weak, incomplete, overstated, or biased * The essay integrates a minimum of 3 quotes from *Fast Food Nation* and 1-2 additional quotes from other credible sources throughout the concession and counter argument portions of the essay * Is of appropriate length, depth, and complexity (approximately 1,000+ words—as a rough estimate) |
| **2.** | | **Organization and Cohesion** |
|  | | * The essay has an effective introduction that provides appropriate background information for the thesis * The thesis is clearly stated in the introduction and identifies the topic, opinion, and parts of the essay * Each paragraph begins with a topic sentence that clearly orients the reader to the part of the thesis that will be examined in the following paragraph and transitions effectively from the previous paragraph(s) * Each paragraph has specific points, analysis, quotes, statistics, evidence that support the main idea * There is good transition between paragraphs, individual sentences, and ideas; all present is connected * No superfluous information is given not directly related to the thesis—all elements of the thesis are explored in detail |
| **3.** | | **Rhetorical and Argumentative Devices** |
|  | | * The essay has an interesting title that supports the rhetorical devices and viewpoint of the writer * A fresh, credible, and authoritative voice emerges in the piece that connects effectively with the audience * The writer uses sound logic and effective progression of ideas to argue specific points—both those that support Schlosser and those that refute him * The writer argues persuasively for his/her viewpoint while anticipating counter-arguments and dealing with them sensitively and effectively * Compelling outside sources are used to lend credibility to the arguments and support claims made * Direct quotes, paraphrasing, and even ideas gleaned from other sources receive an appropriate citing * The writer exploits the implications of the arguments presented |
| **4.** | | **Clarity and Conciseness** |
|  | | * The writer’s position on the topic is clearly expressed in the thesis and supported through the body * Appropriate background information is provided so the reader can process the main points in context * Ideas follow a logical progression * Ideas and passages are expressed clearly avoiding awkward, confusing, or ambiguous expression * Pronouns and demonstratives (this, that, these, those) are used unambiguously * The text is free of wordiness and needless repetition * Words selected convey most accurately and poignantly the author’s meaning * Unnecessary passages or elements that do not effectively build the piece are eliminated |
| **5.** | | **Grammar, Punctuation, and Format** |
|  | | * Rules of American English grammar and usage are appropriately applied; essay is carefully proofread * Subjects and verbs agree; verb tense is consistent and appropriate (use present when possible) * Passive voice is used only when needed and effective * Sentence structure and word order follow American English grammar and usage conventions * Run-on sentences and sentence fragments are revised into complete sentences * Commas, semi-colons, periods, and dashes are used correctly; punctuation rules are followed * Conventions of capitalization are followed correctly * MLA guidelines are followed for format, in-text citations, and on the MLA Works Cited page |
| **6.** | **Draft** | |
|  | * Draft is complete and shows evidence of continued effort; draft is typed and was received on time * Draft makes sense and is free from major errors in grammar and punctuation; essay has shape and structure * The author is clearly striving to apply the techniques and principles outlined in this rubric effectively * The final shows significant improvement from the preliminary writing * ***Failure to turn in a quality thesis and/or draft results in an automatic 10% deduction off your final essay score!*** | |