

AP English Literature Grading Rubric for Literary Analysis Responses

9-8 (95/90)

Responses in this range are persuasive and convincing and reveal an insightful understanding of the literary work and characters as well as the theme and complexity. They begin with a focused main idea that conveys meaning (theme) and unifies the response. They contain logical organization, extensive development of ideas, and compelling supporting evidence from the literary text as well as precise use of literary terminology. These responses are grammatically clear and well-written, and the writing exhibits stylistic flair with word choice and sentence variety.

7-6 (85/80)

Responses in this range are competent and reasonable and reveal a clear understanding of the literary work and characters as well as the theme and complexity. They contain a main idea, clear organization, thorough development of ideas, and effective supporting evidence from the literary text as well as use of literary terminology. These responses may have a few grammatical errors but are generally clearly written, exhibiting command through word choice and sentence variety.

5 (70)

Responses in this range are plausible but superficial and reveal a limited understanding of the complexity of the literary work and characters, possibly addressing only a part of the theme or topic. They contain an unfocused main idea (often focusing more on plot or context than meaning), limited organization, limited or minimal development of ideas, and vague or unexplained supporting evidence from the literary text as well as imprecise use of literary terminology. These responses may be grammatically flawed, but the word choice and sentence variety are competent but unsophisticated.

4-3 (65/60)

Responses in this range are inadequate and reveal an incomplete understanding of the literary work and characters. Though they attempt to assert a main idea, organization is confusing or disconnected, development of ideas is thin, textual evidence does not support their points, and literary terminology is vague if present. These responses are grammatically flawed and lack clarity; word choice is imprecise or vague, and sentences lack variety.

2-1 (50/?)

Responses in this range are seriously flawed and reveal little understanding of the literary work and characters. They do not address the topic directly, organization is lacking, development of ideas is too brief, there is little or no textual evidence for support, and knowledge of literary terminology is not evident from the writing. These responses may contain serious grammatical flaws that make the writing difficult to understand. Writing shows little command of word choice or sentence variety.