



Six-Traits Grading Rubric for The Handmaid's Tale Project

I. IDEAS AND CONTENT

5	This paper is clear and focused. It holds the reader's attention. Relevant examples, comments and details enrich the critical analysis. The writer quotes from at least five sections of HMT and cites five different current event articles
3	The writer is beginning to define the position or opinion, even though development is still basic or general. The writer quotes from some sections of HMT and refers to two or three articles.
1	As yet, the paper has no clear sense of purpose or focus on single issue. To extract meaning from the text, the reader must make inferences based on sketchy or missing details. Quotes nothing.

II. ORGANIZATION

5	The organization enhances and showcases the critical analysis. The order, structure, or presentation of details is compelling and moves the reader through the text and fits the chosen format.
3	The organizational structure is strong enough to move the reader through the details of the analysis without too much confusion. Format choice is unclear.
1	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.

III. VOICE

5	The writer speaks directly to the reader in a way that is individual, compelling, and engaging, is aware and respectful of the audience, and the purpose for writing this critical analysis. HMT character voice is clear about what s/he thinks, feels, and believes.
3	The writer seems sincere, but not fully engaged or involved. The result is pleasant or even personable, but not compelling. Not clear what HMT character thinks, feels, and believes.
1	The writer seems indifferent, uninvolved, or distanced from the literature and/or the audience.

IV. WORD CHOICE

5	Words relate the writer's critical analysis in a precise, interesting, and natural way, with powerful engaging words that seem appropriate for HMT character.
3	The language is functional, even if it lacks energy. It is easy to figure out the writer's meaning on a general level, but seems inconsistent for HMT character.
1	The writer struggles with limited vocabulary, searching for words to convey meaning and to show his/her position on the issues or opinion of the literature.

V. SENTENCE FLUENCY

5	The writer has an easy flow, rhythm and cadence. Sentences are well built, with strong and varied structure that invites expressive oral reading. Quotations flow seamlessly in the text of the essay.
3	The text hums along with a steady beat, but tends to be more pleasant or business like than musical, more mechanical than fluid. Quotations stand out from the text.
1	The reader would have to practice quite a bit in order to give this paper a fair interpretive reading.

VI. CONVENTIONS

5	The writer demonstrates a good grasp of standard writing conventions (e.g. spelling, punctuation, capitalization, grammar, usage, and paragraphing) and uses conventions effectively to enhance readability. Errors tend to be few and just a few minor touch-ups would make this publishable. Bibliography format is correct. Quotations are punctuated correctly.
3	The writing 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. Bibliography included.
1	Errors in spelling, punctuation, capitalization, usage and grammar and/or paragraphing repeatedly distract the reader and make the personal reminiscence difficult to read. No bibliography.

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