**Rubric for The Lord of the Flies (Argumentative Writing)**

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| *After the boys land on the island, their desire for survival quickly spirals into fear for survival along with a need for power and acceptance. Write a 400 word essay in which you answer: What condition drives boys to become cruel and vicious: their internal natures that we are always suppressing, the external world of fear and chaos, or a combination of both? Be sure to:*   * *Take a clear stance on the issue: either fully supporting one option or arguing a combination of both* * *Cite and thoroughly analyze at least two pieces of evidence.* * *Warrant your evidence so that it creates a sustained case for your claim.* |

4=Advanced 3=Proficient 2=Basic 1=Below Basic

**If you have chosen a combination of both reasons….**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Introduction**   * Summarize the main ideas of story—enough so that the reader can make sense of the claim. * Make a smooth transition to the claim. * Include and properly punctuate the story’s title and author. * Make note it is a novel. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| **Claim**: Clearly takes a stance on the ideas presented in the prompt— *either agreeing fully with one idea, or partially agreeing with both ideas proposed in the prompt.* | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| **Clarification**: Defines the characteristics of cruelty and viciousness and what they entail. Also defines the meaning of external and/or internal factors (whichever terms apply to your response). | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| **Premise**: States one of the aspects that leads the boys to becoming cruel and vicious. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| **Evidence**:   * Provides a quote that supports why the boys become vicious. * Introduce (contextualize the quote) by summarizing the part of the story it’s taken from. * Properly punctuation the quote. * Use MLA format to cite the page number of the quote. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| **Warrant**:   * Analyze the quote by referencing specific words and phrases and interpreting their meaning. * Explaining how my interpretation of the quote proves the claim. | 2 | 4 | 6 | 8 |
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| **Warrant**:   * Analyze the quote by referencing specific words and phrases and interpreting their meaning. * Explaining how my interpretation of the quote proves the claim. | 2 | 4 | 6 | 8 |
| **Concluding Statement**:   * Briefly summarizes the argument * Answers the question “so what” by connecting to real world or by explaining the implications * Ties back to the essential question and offers an insight into human nature | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Mechanics and/style | | | | |
| Maintains a formal academic tone throughout the paper | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Uses transitional phrases and techniques to connect major parts of the essay | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Uses sophisticated word choice, including one of the unit’s vocabulary words. (please highlight in final draft) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Is grammatically correct including, including use of one semicolon to connect closely related independent clauses (please highlight in final draft) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

**If you have chosen only ONE of the reasons….**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Introduction**   * Summarize the main ideas of story—enough so that the reader can make sense of the claim. * Make a smooth transition to the claim. * Include and properly punctuate the story’s title and author. * Make note it is a novel. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| **Claim**: Clearly takes a stance on the ideas presented in the prompt— *either agreeing fully with one idea, or partially agreeing with both ideas proposed in the prompt.* | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
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| **Evidence**:   * Provides a quote that supports why the boys become vicious. * Introduce (contextualize the quote) by summarizing the part of the story it’s taken from. * Properly punctuation the quote. * Use MLA format to cite the page number of the quote. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| **Warrant**:   * Analyze the quote by referencing specific words and phrases and interpreting their meaning. * Explaining how my interpretation of the quote proves the claim. | 2 | 4 | 6 | 8 |
| **Objection:** Acknowledges a weakness in the argument | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| **Reply:**   * Explains the weakness * Ultimately explains how the evidence for the claim outweighs the weakness | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| **Concluding Statement**:   * Briefly summarizes the argument * Answers the question “so what” by connecting to real world or by explaining the implications * Ties back to the essential question and offers an insight into human nature | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Mechanics and/style | | | | |
| Maintains a formal academic tone throughout the paper | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
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