

Catcher in the Rye Essay

Catcher in the Rye is considered one of the most important American novels of the twentieth century. Indeed, the novel was included on *Time*'s 2005 list of the 100 best English-language novels written since 1923 and it was named by Modern Library and its readers as one of the 100 best English-language novels of the 20th century. Since the novel's publication in 1951, Holden, the main character, has been both endeared and infuriated readers with his cynical and emotional response to, what he calls, the "phoniness" of the adult world. Through Holden, readers are taken through a journey that explores questions regarding coming-of-age, isolation and belonging, and authenticity. Your task is to investigate the novel and provide a literary analysis in the form of an essay.

In the literary essay, you are exploring the meaning and construction of a piece of literature. It is an insightful, critical interpretation of a literary work. It is not a summary of character, plot or other element of fiction. It is your interpretation and opinion. You must adopt a viewpoint on the work in question and show how the details of the work support your viewpoint.

You will write an essay based on one of the following topics.

- Salinger presents an assortment of motifs throughout the novel, all of which are related to the major themes. Choose **three** motifs and explain how they are connected to any **one** of the major themes in the novel.
- As an adolescent, Holden appears to be caught between the world of childhood and adulthood. Indeed, this is origin much of the conflict within the novel. Explain what the novel says about childhood and growing up.
- Salinger weaves a variety of symbols into *The Catcher in the Rye*, including (but not limited to) the red hunting hat, the ducks in Central Park, and Allie's mitt. Select and analyze one symbol that Salinger uses in the book. Explain how Salinger develops this object as a symbol throughout the story. Discuss the symbol's meaning and significance, and explore its connection to the overall theme of the novel.

Here are some helpful hints to improve your mark:

- Use all steps of the writing process: brainstorm, analyze and organize, draft and revise, and finalize using MLA manuscript format.
- Complete the writing process in order. There is no point in writing the essay and faking rough notes after the fact.
- Hand in all steps of the writing process.
- Use the outline as provided as part of the organization process of your essay. The outline is meant to help you organize your thoughts and structure your paper.
- Include evidence from the play to support your points. Opinions are weak without support to back them up. Use specific quotations to support your ideas.

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Introductory paragraph outline

General statement about the topic that grabs the reader's attention

Something general that relates to the topic of the essay.

Something more specific to your topic that leads to the thesis.

Thesis statement with three supporting points

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Body Paragraph Organizer (Body 1)

T (First thesis topic)

E (Point of support)

E (Proof: example/quote)

E (Link: explanation and analysis of example/quote with link to thesis point)

E (Point of support)

E (Proof: example/quote)

E (Link: explanation and analysis of example/quote with link to thesis point)

C (Link to thesis)

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Body Paragraph Organizer (Body 2)

T (Second thesis topic)

E (Point of support)

E (Proof: example/quote)

E (Link: explanation and analysis of example/quote with link to thesis point)

E (Point of support)

E (Proof: example/quote)

E (Link: explanation and analysis of example/quote with link to thesis point)

C (Link to thesis)

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Body Paragraph Organizer (Body 3)

T (Second thesis topic)

E (Point of support)

E (Proof: example/quote)

E (Link: explanation and analysis of example/quote with link to thesis point)

E (Point of support)

E (Proof: example/quote)

E (Link: explanation and analysis of example/quote with link to thesis point)

C (Link to thesis)

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Concluding paragraph outline

Restatement of Thesis:

Explain the relevance of the topic in relation to how one might view the work

Draw a broad conclusion from what you have written

ESSAY MARKING SCHEME**Overall Format and Writing Conventions**

Does the essay demonstrate fluency through varying sentence type, structure, and length for different purposes and make logical transitions between ideas by using signal/transition words and phrases?

4	8	12	16	20
(Not at all)	(Barely)	(Somewhat)	(Mostly)	(Completely)

Is the essay clearly written and free of errors in spelling, punctuation, and grammar?

2	4	6	8	10
(Not at all)	(Barely)	(Somewhat)	(Mostly)	(Completely)

Does the essay follow the prescribed manuscript format (MLA or APA)?

1	2	3	4	5
(Not at all)	(Barely)	(Somewhat)	(Mostly)	(Completely)

Introductory Paragraph

Does the introductory paragraph open with a creative and relevant statement and follow with statements that introduce the thesis in a logical way?

1	2	3	4	5
(Not at all)	(Barely)	(Somewhat)	(Mostly)	(Completely)

Does the thesis clearly identify and outline the subject?

1	2	3	4	5
(Not at all)	(Barely)	(Somewhat)	(Mostly)	(Completely)

Body Paragraphs

Do the paragraphs have supporting details and examples to back up the topic/ main idea that are relevant and sufficient?

2	4	6	8	10
(Not at all)	(Barely)	(Somewhat)	(Mostly)	(Completely)

Do the paragraphs demonstrate evidence of insightful and thorough analysis of the points outlined in the thesis and a thorough understanding of the topic through detailed explanations and linking?

4	8	12	16	20
(Not at all)	(Barely)	(Somewhat)	(Mostly)	(Completely)

Concluding Paragraph

Does the concluding paragraph begin with a creative restatement of the thesis?

1	2	3	4	5
(Not at all)	(Barely)	(Somewhat)	(Mostly)	(Completely)

Does the conclusion leave the audience thinking about the topic in a creative and thought provoking manner?

1	2	3	4	5
(Not at all)	(Barely)	(Somewhat)	(Mostly)	(Completely)

Process

Does the rough work demonstrate evidence of the writing process (organizing using graphic organizers, creating drafts, proofreading, editing and revising)?

1	2	3	4	5
(Not at all)	(Barely)	(Somewhat)	(Mostly)	(Completely)

Were all of the process due dates adhered to?

1	2	3	4	5
(Not at all)	(Barely)	(Somewhat)	(Mostly)	(Completely)

_____/95

Comments: