Instructions:
1. Examine the essay for each of the characteristics named below and initial each statement that describes the essay.
2. If you honestly cannot initial a statement, explain why on the other side of this sheet.
3. Make suggestions for revisions on the other side of this sheet.

The essay has a two-part title that captures the reader’s attention and indicates author, title and what the thesis is.

The essay opens well and captures the attention of the reader.

The introduction is long enough (but not too long) and establishes what is required to know to keep going; nothing is lacking.

The essay has a definite and clear thesis.

Each paragraph contains a clear topic sentence or idea.

Body paragraphs are well-developed.

The ideas are arranged in the best order (logic, use of direct quotations/references, number of supports for a particular argument, etc.)

Every fact or detail relates to the thesis.

There are sufficient direct quotes from the text throughout the essay (i.e. two or three per thesis point) as well as indirect references to the text.

Quoted and paraphrased material is properly referenced.

Each paragraph deals with only one topic, which is made clear right away.

Transitions are used effectively to create connections between ideas and paragraphs.

The conclusion is concise.

The conclusion brings closure to the essay.

The conclusion is involved enough so as not to be trite or read as an obligatory add-on.

The essay would be clear to a reader unfamiliar with the work studied.
WRITING STYLE

_________ All sentences are grammatically correct.

_________ All sentences make sense.

_________ There is variety in sentence length to give rhythm to the essay. (check that there is no overuse of sentences that begin with “this” and that “this” has a referent).

_________ There are no run-ons, fragments or comma splices in the work.

_________ There is an unmistakable antecedent for each pronoun.

_________ Each sentence begins with a capital letter and ends with a suitable mark of punctuation.

_________ All words are correctly spelled.

_________ Thought has been given to diction with the inclusion of sophisticated vocabulary and interesting, well-placed words.

_________ All punctuation marks make sense and are grammatically coherent.

_________ The essay is written in active voice and in the present tense whenever possible.

EXPLANATIONS FOR UNINITIALED STATEMENTS

COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS