Name: Date:

**Parts of a Great Essay**

1. A catchy, original title…if you can come up with one!
2. Introduction - Your introduction should include the following:

* Hook: The beginning sentences of your introduction that garner the reader’s interest. Ways of beginning creatively include the following:
* General statement
* A meaningful, famous quote
* A rich, vivid definition
* A rhetorical question
* An analogy or metaphor
* An anecdote
* Bridge: These are the sentences connecting what was presented in your hook to the main idea of your paper (thesis)
* Thesis: A sentences or two that clearly states the main point of your essay. This should not be a statement of fact, rather is should be a clear answer to the question and a statement that can be supported by using evidence from the literary work.

1. Body Paragraphs: The body of your essay should logically and fully develop and support your thesis. Each body paragraph should focus on one main idea that supports your thesis statement.

* Body Paragraphs include:
* A topic sentence: A topic sentence states the main point of a paragraph. It serves as a mini-thesis for your paragraph. You might think of it as something of extreme importance that alerts your reader to one of the most imperative points in your essay. It might be helpful to think of a topic sentence as working in two directions simultaneously. It relates to the essay thesis found in the introduction thereby acting as a signpost for the argument of the paper, but it also defines the scope of the paragraph itself.
* Lead in to the quote: Who said the quote? What is happening in the literary work when they say it? The lead in prepares the reader for the quote by introducing the speaker, setting, and/or situation.
* Quote: Your quote is specific textual evidence from the literary work used to provide evidence to support your topic sentence and thesis.
* Explication of your quote: Your explication (or explanation) of the quote explains how the quote proves your topic sentence and thesis.
* Paragraph wrap up: This should be the last sentence of your body paragraph. It concludes the paragraph by tying the quote and explication back to the thesis in your introduction.

1. Conclusion: This is the last paragraph where you are given one last chance to convince the reader of your argument and provide a sense of closure.

* Restate your thesis using strategic repetition.
* Summarize the main points made in your body paragraphs. (**Remember:** Each body paragraph in your paper should be at least one summarized sentence.)
* Your final sentences should take the form of a theme statement. You should try to suggest the broader significance of your discussion—why is it important?