

Name _____

The Great Gatsby Essay Rubric

	4 – Exceeds	3 – Meets	2 – Needs Improvement	1 – Inadequate
Thesis statement	Well-developed thesis shows outstanding analysis of the chosen topic and novel.	Thesis shows understanding of the chosen topic and the novel.	Thesis is simplistic or shows points of confusion on the chosen topic or interpretation of the novel.	No apparent thesis or a poorly developed one that shows confusion about the assignment or novel.
Structure of the essay (organization, flow of thought, transitions, format)	Paper is logically organized; it is easy to follow; there are effective, smooth, and logical transitions between thoughts and topics and/or paragraphs	Paper has a clear organizational structure with some digressions, ambiguities, or irrelevances, it is easily followed, there are basic transitions between thoughts and topics and/or paragraphs	There is some organization but there are too many ambiguities and irrelevances; the paper is difficult to follow; there are weak transitions between thoughts and topics and/or paragraphs	There is no apparent organization to the paper; it is difficult to follow, there are no or poor transitions between thoughts or topics and/or paragraphs
Supporting evidence and use of quotations	There are at least 3 distinct and specific supporting details developed in their own paragraphs with several properly cited quotations (with page numbers) to support each detail, as well as the introduction and conclusion.	There are at least 3 supporting details but they are not as well developed. There are quotations, but they do not fully support that evidence, or there are faults with citation (including page numbers)	There are supporting details but they are not strong. There are minimal or poorly chosen quotations, which may not be fully attributed.	There are not clear supporting details or the details chosen do not support the thesis. There are no quotations or ones that do not support the evidence. The quotes are not properly attributed.
Sentence structure, grammar, mechanics, and spelling	Sentences are well constructed and have varied structure and length. The author makes few to no errors in grammar, mechanics, and/or spelling.	Most sentences are well constructed and have varied structure and length. The author makes a few errors in grammar, mechanics, and/or spelling, but they do not interfere with understanding.	Most sentences are well constructed, but they have a similar structure and/or length. The author makes several errors in grammar, mechanics, and/or spelling that interfere with understanding.	Sentences are awkward, are distractingly repetitive, or are difficult to understand. The author makes numerous errors in grammar, mechanics, and/or spelling that interfere with understanding.
Paper structure	Paper is 2 to 3 full pages, typed, double-spaced with 1" margins in Times New Roman 12-point font. There is a header and a title	Paper deviates from the structure criteria on 1 point	Paper deviates from the structure criteria on 2 points	Paper deviates from the structure requirements on 3 or more points
Remarks				