5th Grade Interpretive Essay Rubric

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| **Criteria** | **4** | **3** | **2** | **1** |
| **Content** | **I have a clear, concise thesis statement that is meaningful and important to the theme/message of the book. I did a great job at showing why this idea is so important to the book or to the rest of the world.** | **I have a clear thesis statement and did a good job at using reasons to show why this idea is so important to the plot of the story.** | **I attempted to create a thesis, but it may be poorly worded or unclear as to why I chose to write about this topic.** | **I have a thesis that is unclear and my essay does not help to clarify it.** |
| **Elaboration** | **My writing contains 3 strong, supportive reasons that are accurate and clear-cut. I explained all my reasons by using many strong and important examples. I added relevant examples from other texts, real world, quotes, and other examples from other characters to support my thesis.** | **My writing contains 3 fairly strong, supportive reasons that are accurate and clear-cut. I explained all my reasons by using many strong and important examples. I added relevant examples from other texts, real world, quotes, and other examples from other characters to support my thesis.** | **I have one or two reasons to support my thesis, but they may be weak or not relevant. I tried to explain all supporting reasons by using examples from my own life, quotes, or other resources to support my thesis.** | **I did not use reasons and examples to support my thesis or my reasons and examples do not match my thinking.** |
| **Organization** | **My writing has a clear topic. I have a strong introduction and 3 supporting paragraphs and comparative paragraph. I thought about the order of my supporting paragraphs, placing the strongest reason last. I ended with a strong conclusion.** | **My writing has a clear topic. I have an introduction and 3 support paragraphs and comparative paragraph. My paragraphs mostly follow a logical sequence and I ended with a conclusion.** | **I attempted to stay on topic. I have included some paragraphs. My writing shows that some of my ideas are in order.** | **I have details and ideas, but have not organized them into sequential order.** |
| **Language Usage** | **My writing is very engaging. My readers feel like I am talking to them. I included many transitional words.** |  **My writing is mostly engaging. There are parts where my reader feels like I am talking to them. I included some transitional words.** | **My writing is somewhat engaging, but there are parts that are confusing. I used one or two transitional words and I tried to speak directly to my reader.** | **My writing is not engaging to the reader because it does not have transitional words and I did not speak directly to my reader.** |
| **Mechanics** | **My writing contains correct spelling, grammar, punctuation, complete and complex sentences and correct use of capitalization.** | **My writing contains few spelling and grammar errors, and has correct punctuation and complete sentences.** | **My writing contains some spelling and grammar errors. Most sentences have correct punctuation and are complete. I used simple sentences.** | **My writing is hard to read and contains many spelling and grammatical errors.** |