

## Literature Essay Checklist

<b>Content</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Title</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The title is concise, but contains keywords that will give the reader a good idea about what the essay is about.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Topic / research question(s)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Define your area of interest, enquiry and research: decide on primary source(s) and critical/analytical approach</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Thesis/topic statements (stated arguments)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ There is one overarching argument about the primary source(s) supported by smaller arguments throughout the essay</li> <li>○ The thesis statement has a clear focus (what you are looking at), and suggests a clear direction (how you are going to prove your point)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Engagement with primary sources (close-reading)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Evidence supports arguments</li> <li>○ Evidence is <i>interpreted</i> (and not just summarised) considering both formal and thematic aspects</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Engagement with secondary sources (criticism and theory)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Secondary sources are used to situate and develop your argument</li> <li>○ Appropriate secondary scholarship is utilized (academic, peer-reviewed, up-to-date, etc.)</li> <li>○ Secondary sources are not replacing your own ideas and words</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Structure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Clear macro-structure</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Introduction - main body - conclusion</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Clear micro-structure</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The main body is divided into distinct paragraphs each developing one clear argument related to overarching argument.</li> <li>○ Paragraph transitions introduce and explain relevance of the individual points.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Overall coherence of overarching argument</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ One over-arching argument is stated in the introduction</li> <li>○ Each paragraph in the main body of the essay relates to and supports the overarching argument.</li> <li>○ By the time of the conclusion the reader has received enough evidence to be persuaded of the validity of the overarching argument</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Development of argument</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Paragraphs are ordered in a logical way and there is no redundancy but a clear trajectory and development</li> <li>○ Paragraphs are linked by clear transitions that also hint at the trajectory of the essay</li> <li>○ The conclusion does not simply reiterate individual arguments, but brings them together and evaluates them in the larger context of the paper.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Style and Presentation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Language</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The essay is written in an academic register</li> <li>○ The essay is revised and checked for grammar, punctuation, and spelling</li> <li>○ The essay is written clearly and consistently</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Format text and references/bibliography</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The bibliography is formatted according to the Literature Guide</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>References in the text</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Use the correct format for references in the text (see Literature Guide; also consult the guidelines concerning plagiarism and the use of AI tools such as ChatGPT).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>