**Critical Analysis Essay Rubric (*In Cold Blood*)**

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| Scoring Criteria | Exemplary | Proficient | Emerging | Incomplete |
| Ideas (50) | The essay  - demonstrates a thorough understanding of the overall meaning of the work  -perceptively analyzes author’s choices  - uses well-chosen details that support the thesis to analyze the work | The essay  - demonstrates an understanding of the overall meaning of the work  - appropriately analyzes author’s choices  - analyzes the work with appropriate details that supports the thesis | The essay  - demonstrates a superficial understanding of the overall meaning of the work    - contains an underdeveloped analysis of author’s choices  - contains too few examples or details, possibly replaced by excessive summary | The essay  - demonstrates little understanding of the overall meaning of the work  - does not effectively analyze author’s choices  - contains few examples or details and may repeat some details unnecessarily |
| Structure (30) | The essay  - follows an exceptionally clear organization  - uses transitions effectively and creatively to move smoothly from one idea to the next | The essay  - organizes ideas clearly so that they are easy to follow  - uses transitions to move between ideas | The essay  - organizes ideas in ways that are difficult to follow  - uses few transitions or jumps too rapidly between ideas | The essay  - uses a confusing organization  - uses few or no transitions to move between limited ideas |
| Use of Language (20) | The essay  - crafts languages to enhance the analysis and consistently conveys an academic voice  - successfully weaves in textual evidence from the story    - demonstrates strong control and mastery of standard writing | The essay  - uses language clearly to communicate the analysis and demonstrates an appropriate academic voice  - accurately leaves in textual evidence from the story  - demonstrates control of standard writing conventions; may contain minor errors that do not interfere with meaning | The essay  - uses language that does not clearly communicate the analysis or demonstrate an academic voice  - awkwardly or inaccurately incorporates evidence from the story  - contains frequent errors in standard writing conventions that interfere with meaning | The essay  - does not clearly communicate the analysis or use an academic voice  - inaccurately uses a few details from the story  - contains numerous errors in standard writing conventions that seriously impede understanding |

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