Essay Criteria -- Moleski, SJ

[X] = displeasure  [ ] = OK, no comment  [+]= well done!

-- Format:

[ ] assigned length, 8.5" x 11" paper  [ ] number each page
[ ] typed (11 or 12 point) or "C" at most  [ ] 26 lines per page
[ ] double-spacing between lines and paragraphs
[ ] 1" margins all around  [ ] please do not use a plastic cover
[ ] include teacher's name and section ID (e.g., RST 101 K, RST 357 B)

-- Content, argument, style:

[ ] helpful title--shows insight  [ ] good content, poor form
[ ] first paragraph detailed, effective  [ ] well-written, but content weak
[ ] well-focused  [ ] repetition is not development
[ ] consistent development  [ ] balanced parallels
[ ] formal tone  [ ] avoid glittering generalities (GG)
  [ ] don't use "you" (2nd person)  [ ] avoid rhetorical questions (RQ)
[ ] well-organized  [ ] illogical--"doesn't follow" (non seg.)
[ ] argues for a viewpoint  [ ] not just a list of facts
[ ] provides analysis, not reactions (RP)  [ ] not just a summary of others' ideas
[ ] judicious use of examples, quotes  [ ] not just plot summary w/o analysis (PS)
[ ] shows understanding of readings  [ ] understand others before criticizing
[ ] deals with assigned topic / readings

-- Mechanics:

[ ] syntax (clearly understands the meaning of words)
  [ ] Never misuse "hopefully"--If you mean "I hope," say "I hope."
  [ ] Don't say "that" when you mean "who."
  [ ] "novel" = a work of fiction vs. "book" = fiction or non-fiction
[ ] spelling
  [ ] capitalization
  [ ] accept/except, affect/effect
  [ ] correct use of apostrophe
cannot, its/it's, there/their,
to/too/two, you're/your
  it's = it is; its = belongs to it
  (his, hers, theirs, ours, its)
[ ] hyphenization
[ ] punctuation ( , : ; . ? ! " ' ) [ ] dash (--) vs. hyphen (-)
  hyphens connect--dashes separate
[ ] underline or italicize book titles
[ ] titles of articles in "quotation marks"
[ ] complete sentences (inc)
[ ] use two (2) spaces after a period
[ ] no run-on sentences (r-o) or comma splices (CS)
[ ] agreement in number
[ ] agreement in tense
  [ ] PROOFREAD YOUR PAPER! (PYP!)
[ ] paragraph
[ ] one idea  [ ] develops theme of the paper
[ ] more than one sentence  [ ] double, not triple space between paragraphs
[ ] indented  [ ] single space & indent long quotations
  without quotation marks (ss+i)

[ ] Please take this essay to writing lab for help with mechanics.

-- References (originality):

[ ] the overall work must be demonstrably your own
[ ] use evidence, authority, or argument to support your conclusions (EV)
[ ] give credit where credit is due (REF)
  [ ] page refs for paraphrases (PR)
[ ] cite chapter and verse of scripture references (CH:VV): "He wept" (Lk 19:41).
[ ] a space precedes left quotation marks (") and left paren -- (. For example:
  Supply the source of paraphrases (RS, 123). Employ "quotation" (HS, 64).
  Ask "questions?" (MW, 23). Retain their "exclamation!" (WO, 76).

Note Well: Consistent disregard of grammatical standards means that a student will receive
no higher than a C-, D or F on the essay, regardless of other merits.

A  95-100  B+  86-89  C+  74-77  D  60-65
A-  90-94  B  82-85  C  70-73  F  59 and below
B-  78-81  C-  66-69

[ ] See me or else you will receive a zero on this paper

You may break all these rules AFTER you learn them.