

Grading for the Gatsby and the World Essay | AP Language

I grade holistically so there aren't a set amount of points for each aspect of your essay. However, here are some guidelines:

Control of language: effective and varied sentence structures, effective use of language-Did you avoid passive voice? Did you use strong verbs whenever possible?

Sophisticated diction: appropriate and compelling vocabulary-Did you use your words correctly? Beware of the thesaurus. Did you avoid weak modifiers such as: *very*, *really*, and *a lot*?

Organization: Clear and cogent essay structure-Do your examples flow smoothly and create a unified whole?

Strong and compelling thesis: Did you make your claim clear? Did you incorporate *Gatsby* and the modern era?

Knowledge of the texts: Did you demonstrate a thorough understanding of *The Great Gatsby* or did you focus on single sections of text? Are your outside sources relevant and compelling?

Grammar and spelling: Are your grammar and spelling perfect? You should read your final draft out loud. You should also have somebody else proofread your work.

Argument: Did you use strong examples? Did you prove your point? Remember, it's not enough to just point at an example. Explain the relevance. Explain why your argument matters. Argue.

Mechanics: Did you use effective transitions? Did you avoid unnecessary words and repetition?

MLA: Did you properly cite your texts? Did you include a Works Cited page?

Overall: Does your essay make sense? Is it compelling? Did you answer the original question? How does F. Scott Fitzgerald's novel, *The Great Gatsby*, inform our understanding of the modern world? What can this text teach us about ourselves? If all you do is point at examples from then and now, then you will only receive a moderate grade. Think. What do these similarities reveal about human nature? Why should we continue to read classic literature?

