

Rubric for Paper #1
The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

	Exemplary	Competent	Developing
Responding to a Guiding Question about Literature and Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Focus sentences answer guiding question and explore possible contradictions, ambiguities, and complications of the relationship between the text and its culture. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Focus sentences (thesis and topic) answer the question “what does Huck Finn say/reveal about _____ in nineteenth-century America? (topic sentences answer this question on the level of particular scenes and passages discussed in each paragraph—thesis answers this question on level of novel as a whole). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Does not have a clear thesis and topic sentences that answer the guiding questions.
Close Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The paper integrates compelling details into thorough interpretations that convincingly support the arguments presented in the focus sentence. <input type="checkbox"/> The text walks the reader step by step through how the connotations and associations of the non-literal language in the text comment on the cultural theme explored in the essay. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The paper integrates brief quotes from the text into interpretations of the text that support the argument presented in the focus sentence. <input type="checkbox"/> This discussion includes identifying and explaining non-literal language used in the text (connotations, figurative language, irony, metaphor / metonym, imagery, symbolism, allusion, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Quotes (and paraphrases) used in the text are correctly punctuated and cited. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The paper identifies passages from the text but does not break those passages into smaller pieces and integrate them into the writer’s interpretive analysis. <input type="checkbox"/> The paper does not identify and explain / interpret figurative language <input type="checkbox"/> Quotes (and paraphrases) used in the text are not correctly punctuated and/or cited.
Contextualizing Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The essay employs appropriate context sources from the text (and may connect to additional context providing sources such as time lines, academic web sites, etc) but does not allow the use of those sources to overshadow the writer’s own analysis and interpretation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The essay uses and correctly cites the academic apparatus of <i>Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i> to provide historical, biographical, and cultural context for the essay’s arguments and interpretations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The essay overlooks relevant academic apparatus in the text and does not incorporate that material in support of the essay’s ideas and arguments.
Style	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The writer’s clear, concise, and active prose enhances her/his analysis of the text. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The writer’s prose is generally clear and does not require the reader to reread passages and/or annotate patterns of grammar and/or punctuation error. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The essay includes distracting grammar or punctuation errors that interfere with its readability.