

The Blind Side: Essay Guide

Now that you've finished reading the novel *The Blind Side*, by Michael Lewis, you are required to write a four paragraph essay (grade 11) or a five paragraph essay (grade 12). The essay will consist of tracking Michael's journey from an innocent teenage boy, just trying to survive on his own, to NFL star. Use the conventional [who, what, where, why and how] to show how Michael overcomes his homeless, solitary life to become an NFL player. Who and what played major roles in his complete development?

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Student Name: _____

CATEGORY	4 - Above Standards	3 - Meets Standards	2 - Approaching Standards	1 - Below Standards
Theme or Thesis Statement	The thesis statement names the topic of the essay and outlines the main points to be discussed.	The thesis statement names the topic of the essay.	The thesis statement outlines some or all of the main points to be discussed but does not name the topic.	The thesis statement does not name the topic AND does not preview what will be discussed.
Support for Position	Includes 4 or more pieces of evidence (facts, statistics, examples, real-life experiences) that support the position statement.	Includes 3 or more pieces of evidence (facts, statistics, examples, real-life experiences) that support the position statement.	Includes 2 pieces of evidence (facts, statistics, examples, real-life experiences) that support the position statement.	Includes 1 or fewer pieces of evidence (facts, statistics, examples, real-life experiences).
Evidence & Examples	All of the evidence and examples are specific, relevant and help to explain the thesis.	Most of the evidence and examples are specific, relevant and help to explain the thesis	At least one of the pieces of evidence and examples is relevant and explains the thesis.	Evidence and examples are NOT relevant AND/OR are not explained.
Accuracy	All supportive facts and statistics are reported accurately.	Almost all supportive facts and statistics are reported accurately.	Most supportive facts and statistics are reported accurately.	Most supportive facts and statistics were inaccurately reported
Grammar & Spelling	Author makes no errors in grammar or spelling that distracts the reader from the content.	Author makes 1-2 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.	Author makes 3-4 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.	Author makes more than 4 errors in grammar or spelling that distracts the reader from the content.