

AP Literature Rubric for *The Road* Open-Ended Prompt

9-8 (97% / 93%)

Superior papers are specific in their references, cogent in their definitions, and free of plot summary that is not relevant to the question. The writer of a superior paper fashions a convincing thesis and guides the reader through the intricacies of the argument with sophisticated transitions. At all times she stays focused on the prompt, providing specific support and connecting scholarly commentary to the overall meaning. The writer uses specific evidence from the work and shows how that evidence is relevant to the point being made. She demonstrates stylistic maturity by an effective command of sentence structure, diction, and organization. The essay need not be without flaws, but it should demonstrate the writer's ability to discuss a literary work with insight and understanding and to control a wide range of the elements of effective composition.

7-6 (89% / 85%)

While they demonstrate the writer's ability to analyze a literary work, these essays reveal a more limited understanding and less stylistic maturity than do the papers in the 9-8 range. While the writer fashions a sound thesis, her discussion will be less thorough and less specific, not so responsive to the rich suggestiveness of the novel or precise in discussing its impact. Although some lapses in diction or syntax may appear, the writer demonstrates sufficient control over the elements of composition to present her ideas with organization and control.

5 (81%)

Typically, these essays convey the writer's ideas, stay mostly focused on the prompt, and demonstrate at least some effort to produce analysis, direct or indirect. The writer constructs a reasonable if reductive thesis. However, simplistic thinking and analysis result in a discussion of that is formulaic, mechanical, or overly general or vague. The essay may be adequately written, but the writer fails to demonstrate a consistent control over the elements of composition. Organization is attempted, but may not be fully realized or particularly effective.