Read the essay carefully with these questions in mind:

1. Does the opening paragraph end with a one-sentence thesis statement that describes what the essay hopes to achieve? □ Yes? UNDERLINE IT. □ No? SUGGEST ONE.

2. Is each quote worked smoothly and grammatically into a sentence written by the student, not standing alone? □ Yes □ No If not, offer a source phrase or suggest a smoother wording with the quote.

3. Does the essay include a properly formatted works cited page? □ Yes □ No □ Not proper MLA format

4. Does the works cited page include at least FIVE sources that are ACTUALLY USED in the essay? □ Yes □ No □ Does the works cited page include the novel or play itself? □ Yes □ No

5. Does the essay use first-person (I, me, my, mine, myself, we, us, our, ours, ourselves) or second-person (you, your, yours, yourself)? □ Yes (Circle them and try replacing with the word “readers.”) □ No

6. Does the essay use variety in the construction of its sentences (some using coordination, some using subordination, and some with only one clause)? □ Yes □ No If not, mark some suggestions on the essay.

Mark all grammar errors on the essay and suggest ways to fix them.

7. Is the essay consistently written in PRESENT TENSE except where past tense is necessary because it refers to something in the author’s life, an event in history, or an event before the plot begins? □ Yes □ No

8. SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT ERRORS: If the subject ends in “s” (plural), the verb should not.
9. PRONOUN AGREEMENT ERRORS: Every pronoun must agree with its antecedent in number and gender. Keep in mind that the -one/-body/-thing indefinite pronouns (e.g., “someone,” “everybody,” “anything”) are always singular, and collective nouns (e.g., “team,” “committee,” “jury,” “union”) are always singular.

10. RELATIVE PRONOUN ERRORS: “Who,” “whom,” and other “who” forms refer to humans; “that” and “which” refer to non-humans. A “which” clause is always set off with commas; a “that” clause is not. “Who” is used if the next word is a verb; “whom” is used if the next word is a noun or pronoun.

11. RUN-ONS and COMMA SPlices: If a sentence has two independent clauses (S + V + complete thought), they can be joined in one of these ways:
   a. With a comma and a coordinating conjunction (FANBOYS: for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so)
   b. With just a semicolon
   c. With a semicolon, a transitional expression (e.g., however, furthermore, in addition), and a comma
   d. With a subordinating conjunction (dependent word) —comma after the dependent clause if the dependent clause comes before an independent clause
   e. With a relative pronoun (who, whom, that, which) and possibly a comma or two (with “which” and sometimes with “who” or “whom” but never with “that”)

If it is two independent clauses joined with just a comma, it is a comma splice (CS). If it has no punctuation between the clauses, it is a fused sentence (i.e., a run-on: RO).

12. FRAGMENTS: If a sentence is missing a subject, a verb, or a complete thought, it is a sentence fragment. If a sentence has only one clause and that clause starts with a dependent word, it is a fragment.