

**Senior English: Mr. Hirsch**  
**Writing Skill Grading Form: Personal Essays**

**Focus/Thesis: A thoughtful and/or debatable argument or idea that connects all the parts and is clearly advanced throughout the writing.**

☐ Clearly answers the question

☐ Reveals important information about the writer

☐ Focus is personal and distinctive

☐ \_\_\_\_\_

**Evidence: Arguments are elegantly connected to quotes and examples in a persuasive manner focused on interpretation rather than summary or fact.**

☐ Shows much more than tells

☐ Claims are backed up with proof

☐ Strong stories and moments

☐ \_\_\_\_\_

**Analysis/Thinking: Original and substantive conclusions are drawn at the intersection of evidence and argument/idea. The arguments/ideas are grounded in evidence and thoroughly and thoughtfully decoded and explored.**

☐ Evidence explores important aspects of the writer (impact on you)

☐ Discussion is substantial and complex

☐ Focus is developed through analysis

☐ \_\_\_\_\_

**Structure/Organization: The structure of the writing supports the focus through voice (word choice and syntax), sentences, and paragraphs.**

☐ Introduction hooks the reader

☐ Voice is natural and authentic

☐ Paragraphs and transitions function well

☐ \_\_\_\_\_

**Mechanics/Grammar: Proper conventions are observed. Citations, spelling, format (including title) and grammar are correctly employed.**

☐ Mechanics are beyond reproach

☐ Some mechanical issues

☐ No more than two very minor errors

☐ Mechanics are problematic

