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| Criteria | Exemplary | Proficient | Needs Improvement |  |
| Support of Comparison  25 points | * Insightful comparisons drawn in every paragraph and supported with evidence from both the song and text * One strong, well-developed assertions/examples per body paragraph * One quote per body paragraph that provides meaningful evidence to support assertions * Well-integrated quotes * Reflective comments that provide insightful analysis of assertions/quotes * Appropriate transitional elements * Fully developed ideas with excellent detail; draws insightful conclusions and demonstrates critical thinking | * Moderate comparison drawn in every paragraph and supported with evidence * One moderately developed assertions/examples per body paragraph * Most quotes provide meaningful evidence to support assertions * Most quotes adequately integrated * Some reflective comments that provide analysis of assertion/quotes * Some appropriate transitional elements * Well-developed ideas with adequate detail; draws some conclusions and demonstrates some critical thinking | * Comparison is present but is not tied effectively with proper textual evidence. * Underdeveloped/inaccurate assertions/examples in body paragraphs * Missing some quotes or some inappropriate/random ones or restates assertion rather than proves it * Few quotes adequately integrated * Few reflective comments (often restates assertion); little analysis of assertion/quotes * More transitional elements needed or some inappropriate ones * draws few conclusions and demonstrates little critical thinking | * Comparison does not make sense or is missing. It is also not tied to proper textual evidence * No quotes or many inappropriate ones with no connection to argument * No quotes properly integrated * No reflective comments; no analysis of assertion/quotes * Undeveloped ideas with little or no detail; does not draw conclusions or demonstrate critical thinking * Rewrite necessary |
| Organization  15 points | Writing shows high degree of attention to logic and reasoning of points. Unity clearly leads the reader to the conclusion and stirs thought regarding the topic. | Writing is coherent and logically organized with transitions used between ideas and paragraphs to create coherence. Overall unity of ideas is present. | Writing is coherent and logically organized. Some points remain misplaced and stray from the topic. Transitions evident but not used throughout essay. | Writing lacks logical organization. It shows some coherence but ideas lack unity. Serious errors. |
| Word Choice  5 points | The author uses vivid words and phrases. The choice and placement of words seems accurate, natural, and not forced. | The author uses vivid words and phrases. The choice and placement of words is inaccurate at times and/or seems overdone. | The author uses words that communicate clearly, but the writing lacks variety. | The writer uses a limited vocabulary. Jargon or clichés may be present and detract from the meaning. |
| Conventions  5 points | The writer demonstrates knowledge of the conventions of written English. Errors are minor and do not interfere with meaning. | The writer demonstrates sufficient control of the conventions of written English. Errors may interfere with meaning, but are not distracting | The writer demonstrates minimal control of the conventions of written English. Errors are frequent and interfere with meaning. | The writer lacks understanding of the conventions of written English. Errors are pervasive. The response is incomplete or too brief. |

Total \_\_\_\_\_\_\_/50