

Name _____ Period _____ Score _____ /300

Scoring Rubric

Monster Essay/ The Juvenile Justice System

Due _____

Option 1: "Monster"

Is Steve Harmon **GUILTY** or **NOT GUILTY**? Use evidence from the book to support your position

Option 2: Juvenile Justice

What is your position on trying juveniles as adults? Do you agree or disagree with the current laws? Write an essay stating your **position** on this issue. Support your claims with convincing **reasons**. Use evidence from the internet to support your position.

Task	Points	A	B	C	D/F
Attention Getter/ Connector Statement	30	Clearly evident and effective. (30)	Adequate and somewhat effective (25)	Makes general statements. Connector Statement may be lacking (20)	Lacking or unclear (15)
Thesis Statement/ Summary Statement	40	Takes a clear position (40)	Maintained (35)	Thinly developed position. (30)	Lacking or unclear position. (25)
Main Ideas	30	Effective topic sentences clearly evident in body paragraphs (30)	Adequate topic sentences clearly evident in body paragraphs (25)	Topic sentences are unclear (20)	Topic sentences are awkward or confusing (15)
Evidence/ Examples	40	Contains at least 1 online source with parenthetical citations (40)	Incorporates at least 1 online source, but lacks parenthetical citations (35)	Evident, but confusing or unclear – lacks parenthetical citations (30)	Evidence or examples are confusing, buried, or unclear (25)
Links	30	Effectively explains evidence or examples (30)	Adequately explains evidence or examples (25)	Partially explains evidence or examples (20)	Does not explain or evidence or examples (15)
Concluding Statements	30	Clearly evident and effective (30)	Adequate, but may not be effective. (25)	Unclear (20)	Lacking (15)
Counter-argument	40	Clearly evident and effective (40)	Adequate, but may not be effective. (35)	Unclear (30)	Lacking (25)
Conclusion	30	Clearly evident and effective (30)	Adequate, but may not be effective. (25)	Unclear (20)	Lacking (15)
Conventions/ Punctuation	30	Few, if any errors Transitions effectively used (30)	Some errors that do not impede understanding. Some transitions appear/ Some unclear pronouns (25)	Several distracting errors that impede understanding. Transitions not evident. Several unclear pronouns (20)	Errors are frequently distracting. Several Unclear pronouns. Transitions not evident. (15)

MLA Formatting Guidelines for Essay

Your Name
Date
Period
Teacher's Name

Header
Single spaced
Left justified

Title of essay
Centered

12 point font
double spaced

Steve Harmon's Innocence

Have you ever been on trial for a murder you didn't commit, and risked the rest of your life being spent in jail? Imagine, someone spending the rest of their life in jail for a crime that they did not commit! Believe it or not, many teens face this type of predicament more than people realize. In the book "Monster," that is the case for Steve Harmon, a poor African-American who lives in rundown Harlem. Steve Harmon, the protagonist, tells his perspective in a movie format. Steve's life seems to be like a movie in his mind that follows his life in jail and in the courtroom. Throughout the story, Steve Harmon searches for truth in himself, and as the trial progresses, he is clearly innocent of the charges. Unfortunately, Steve is young and black, so he is "more likely" to have committed the crime in the eyes of the jurors. There is also the sense that if he has been arrested, he must have committed the crime because the police and the prosecution witnesses wouldn't lie; however, Steve Harmon is clearly innocent.

From Steve's trial, we can learn that the guilt or innocence of a person is often determined by their status in life and even by coincidence. In a journal entry that Steve wrote he ponders, "What did I do? Anybody can walk into a drugstore and look around. Is that what I'm on trial for? I didn't do nothing! I didn't do nothing! But everybody is just messed up with the pain. I didn't fight with Mr. Nesbitt. I didn't take any money from him" (Myers 115). This quote shows that Steve believes he is innocent and that it was a mere coincidence that he was in the store right before the robbery. Steve Harmon lives in the same neighborhood as "Bobo" Evans, James King and Osvaldo Cruz and he is acquainted with all three of the men. The fact that Steve was in the store and knew all the people involved in the crime leads the jury to believe that he was a part of the crime.