**Honors American Literature Transcendentalism Assignment**

**Emerson, Thoreau, Dettmar and *Dead Poets Society***

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| **Criteria** | **4**  **Exceeds Standard** | **3**  **Meets Standard** | **2**  **Approaches Standard** | **1**  **Fails to Meet Standard** |
| **Knowledge and Understanding of Literature Demonstrated through Argument**  **(30%)** | Essay demonstrates through its arguments thorough knowledge and deep, sophisticated understanding of the works of both Emerson and Thoreau as well as *Dead Poets Society.* | Essay demonstrates through its arguments knowledge and understanding of the works of both Emerson and Thoreau as well as *Dead Poets Society.* | Essay sometimes demonstrates through its arguments knowledge and understanding of either the works of Emerson or Thoreau and of *Dead Poets Society.* | Essay fails to demonstrate through its arguments knowledge or understanding of the works of Emerson or Thoreau or of *Dead Poets Society.* |
| **Organization**  **(15%)** | Strong, meaningful order and structure enhanced by thoughtful transitioning. Paragraphs have topic and concluding sentences with appropriate illustration and example in the body of each. | Organization is appropriate, with needed transitional devices present. Most paragraphs are properly constructed with topic and concluding sentences and appropriate support. | Attempts at organization; may at times be a summary with no apparent point. Transitions are often lacking. Some paragraphs are properly constructed | Lack of coherence; confusing; hard to follow. Little or no identifiable structure to paragraphs or to the whole. |
| **Voice, Audience, Word Choice**  **(15%)** | Expressive, engaging, sincere. Always appropriate to audience and purpose. Shows emotion: humor, honesty, suspense or life where appropriate.  Language is always precise and appropriate  Word choice energizes writing | Writing is clear but may lack originality or seem mechanical; is correct but mundane. Generally appropriate to audience and purpose. | Writing is sometimes verbose, wordy, and/or unnatural. Sometimes not appropriate to audience and purpose.  Sometimes monotonous or repetitious. Word choice is sometimes imprecise, murky and confusing. | Writing is often verbose, wordy, and/or unnatural. Shows little or no sense of audience or purpose. Vocabulary is often misused, and imprecise, murky word choice impedes reader’s comprehension. |
| **Sentence Fluency**  **(20%)** | Sentences show a high degree of craftsmanship.  Sentences patterns are varied and effective.  Punctuation enhances meaning for the reader. | Sentence structure is always correct.  Sentence patterns show some variety.  Punctuation is always correct. | One or more sentences lack correct structure.  Sentences are choppy or wandering.  Sentence patterns show little variety.  There are errors in punctuation. | Sentences often disjointed, confusing, and rambling. The writing is difficult to follow. There are several run-ons and/or fragments. |
| **Conventions**  **(20%)** | Exceptionally strong control of conventions.  Errors are few and minor | Control of most writing conventions. Occasional errors do not interfere with understanding. | Limited control of conventions; frequent errors detract from content. | Frequent significant errors may impede readability. |