**ENG 4U ISU Essay Checklist**

* ***Essay is 5-6 pages (1250-1500 words) in length***

**MLA Format** *(biggest problem is a lack of works cited or many small errors that add up)*

* First page is correctly formatted with teacher and course information
* Each page after the first has student name and page number
* Quotations are footnoted
* Quotations are correctly formatted
* The works cited is correct
* All titles are correctly formatted

**Introduction:** *(biggest problem is that thesis or key points are hard to identify or too general)*

* Strong thesis statement is present
* There is a sentence explaining each key point (main arguments in the essay) as it specifically relates to your novel
* The key points are in the order that they appear in the essay

**Body *Paragraphs*** *(biggest problem is sliding into plot summary – stick to clear examples)*

* Start with a strong specific topic sentence – in other words state exactly what you are going to prove in the paragraph
* Each paragraph contains 2-3 strong examples
* Each example is stated, followed by a supporting quotation, followed by an explanation of how that example proves your topic sentence(APE)
* Quotations do not summarize plot events but show how characters feel/react (significance of example), relate to theme, give examples of imagery, etc
* There are transitions between the examples
* End with a strong concluding sentence(s) – restate the argument you proved in the paragraph and link it to your thesis
* A really strong essay also provides a transition into the next paragraph showing how the paragraphs relate and build one strong argument

**Conclusion** *(biggest problem is that you are tired of saying the same thing over and over so it is weak)*

* Thesis is restated
* Key points are restated – lay the argument out one last time
* A quotation is included to tie it all together and end on a strong note