Thematic Analysis Paper: Point Breakdown and Checklist

Please Read the following Point Breakdown and Check Carefully. Failure to do so will result in a lowered grade. Make sure you staple this page to the back of your research paper.

Introduction and Thesis (25% or 15%)
- Introduces Topic and provides background to establish relevance of the issue
- Thesis demonstrates clear purpose, complexity, and originality
- Raises issues to be discussed
- Previews the structure of the essay

Development and Support (25% or 15%)
- Clearly demonstrates complexity of thought
- Argument and Analysis is logically and sophisticatedly thought through
- Primary sources:
  1. included to demonstrate and develop main points
  2. used in effective and balanced ways
  3. included in appropriate and interesting ways
  4. have specific & integral quotations to be included in paper
- Quotations from text(s):
  1. are introduced and contextualized
  2. relate to central argument
  3. are cited
  4. are closely read and analyzed
- Close Reading (literary analysis) and Use of Passages:
  1. integral quotations analyzed to build upon and support thesis
  2. looks closely at the author’s word, stylistic, and/or thematic choices
  3. analyzed with a specificity that makes the reading yours
- Counterarguments are presented and addressed
- Overarching generalizations such as “Asian Americans today have…” should be avoided. In other words, be as specific as possible.
- Paragraph length summarization of book/short story should be avoided
- Relevant engagement with Social, Historical, Cultural contexts/data/facts which are cited

Structure and Organization (25% or 15%)
- Paper is organized in a way that fully supports thesis and purpose
- Paragraphs follow logically to build to a conclusion or claim about the research topic/thesis
- Effective and Explicitly detailed sequence of ideas
- Clear transitions which support your thesis

Use of Language/Mechanics (25% or 15%)
- Language is used with control, elegance, and imagination to serve purpose of the paper
- Standard Grammar, Punctuation, Spelling, and Syntax used (unless quoting speech of a person, or for purposes which aid in the support of your paper)
- 12 Point Font
- Paper Double Spaced
- Page Number and Last Name on upper right-hand corner of every page
- Professor’s and TA’s name on First Page
- Paper is Stapled
- Quotations four lines or longer are indented
- Titles (novels, books, long poems) have been underlined or italicized; articles or short poems are put in quotation marks
- Paper has a fitting title