

Point of View

*An examination of Nathaniel Hawthorne's use of point of view in **The Scarlet Letter***

Part I: Define Point of View (using the AP appendix of your CA handbook)

Part II: Analyze point of view in The Scarlet Letter

Choose at least five text references that reveal the point of view used by Hawthorne. Record those below and indicate the point of view used. Does the point of view change?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Part III: Messages sent through the novel

Select 10 messages Hawthorne sends through his writing. These messages may be about large, thematic issues or minor statements about the society.

Record the message, the text reference that led you to the message (through your skills of inference), and what you think might be the truth.

Message sent	Text support (include page number)	Statement of what you believe might be the “truth.”
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		

5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		

Part IV: Research

Using the books and online sources provided by the LMC, evaluate your statements from the third column. Find research from valid, scholarly sources (not from “googled” sources) to either support or negate each statement. Using your skills of summarizing, paraphrasing, or direct note taking, record your data in the chart below. In the last column, list the source information needed for a parenthetical reference and works cited page.

# of statement	Support or Negate?	Research notes	Source
1			
2			
3			
4			

5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			

Part V: Conclusions

Using the information from the text and your research, write a paper discussing Hawthorne's use of point of view to control his message. As you formulate your thoughts, consider the following quote discussing Hawthorne's message:

[Hawthorne] has intended that the reader's heart should run over with ruth for the undeserved fate of [the wretched Hester Prynne]. . . . [The] reader's heart glows with a longing to take her soft hand and lead her into some pleasant place where the world shall be pleasant and honest and kind to her. I can fancy a reader so loving the image of Hester Prynne as to find himself on the verge of treachery to the real Hester of flesh and blood who may have a claim upon him. Sympathy can not go beyond that; and yet the author deals with her in a spirit of assumed hardness, almost as though he assented to the judgment and the manner in which it was carried out. In this, however, there is a streak of that satire with which Hawthorne always speaks of the peculiar institutions of his own country. The worthy magistrates of Massachusetts are under his lash throughout the story, and so is the virtue of her citizens and the chastity of her matrons, which can take delight in the open shame of a woman whose sin has been discovered. Indeed, there is never a page written by Hawthorne not tinged by satire. (pp. 210-211)

from Anthony Trollope, "The Genius of Nathaniel Hawthorne," in *The North American Review*, Vol. CXXIX, No. CCLXXIV, September, 1879, pp. 203-22. Reprinted in *Nineteenth-Century Literature Criticism*, Vol. 2.

Strategies for writing this paper will be discussed in class.
Parenthetical references and a works cited page are expected.