**Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Essay Topics: The Outsiders**

Choose **ONE** of the topics below and compose a well-developed five-paragraph essay. Use text evidence to support your answer. You will be graded based on the 6-traits of writing rubric. Your final essay should have a full school heading, be typed or neatly handwritten, and reflect your BEST work!

When using quotations from the novel, be sure to put the page number in parentheses following the quote.

Topic #1

“Sixteen years on the streets and you can learn a lot. But all the wrong things, not the things you want to learn” (122). Discuss this quotation from the novel and how it applies to at least three of the boy’s lives. What things did they learn? What things might they have liked to learn? Support your ideas with what you know about the characters through examples from the novel.

Topic#2

Write an essay explaining how expectations played a role in the lives of the Socs and the Greasers. How did external (society, friends, family, etc.) and internal (within himself or herself) expectations influence each group’s actions in the novel? Use examples from the novel in your answer.

Topic #3

Write an essay explaining why you believe each of the “main” Greasers could be considered a hero. Include your own definition of hero in the essay, and be sure to explain how each boy, in his own way, meets your definition. Remember to support your ideas with examples from the novel.

Topic #4

How is each group stereotyped by the society in which they live? Are the descriptions and judgments of others fair and accurate? Answer these questions in essay form, and support your ideas with specific examples of characters from the novel that demonstrate the effects of stereotyping.

