**Pygmalion Essay Topics**

**Directions: Choose one topic to form a three paragraph essay around. Use one piece of textual evidence from the play to support your thesis. This essay is due at the end of your final.**

1. The original Pygmalion is a sculptor who creates a beautiful woman out of clay and is rewarded when she turns human. How does Henry Higgins mold Eliza’s character in much the same way? As Eliza’s creator, does Higgins deserve a certain amount of control over her? Where does his creation end and Eliza’s independence begin? What is the nature of the relationship between artists and their art? Discuss.

2. Pygmalion is in many ways a Cinderella story with its transformation of a poor but lovely young girl into a princess. But is Eliza the only character to undergo such a transformation? Consider her father, Alfred Doolittle, as well as Henry Higgins himself. Describe the other transformations. Whose transformation is the most significant? Why?

3. George Bernard Shaw entitles his play Pygmalion: A Romance in Five Acts. Is Pygmalion really a romance? Or is it a comedy? Shaw suggests the play is about language, while many critics interpret it as a satire with a socialist message. Consider the characteristics of romances, comedies, and satires, and cite specific evidence from the play to support your answer. Argue for one of these interpretations.

4. How do the songs in the musical version of Pygmalion help to support and expand the story? Choose one song from the film and analyze how it affects a particular moment from the play.