Research Step 5: **Formal Outline**

American Literature

Name: _____

RUBRIC

❑ Contains Title (in Title Case)

❑ Begins with *revised* thesis statement

❑ Topic Outline Format and Parallel Structure

❑ Proper MLA Formatting

- o   Double Spaced and One-inch Margins
- o   Typed in 12-point Times New Roman
- o   Paginated in Header by Last Name and Lower-case Roman Numeral

❑ MLA Conventions

- o   Proper Categorization (i.e., Roman Numerals, Capital Letters, Numbers, etc.)
- o   At Least Two Subdivisions for Each Category (i.e., every A has a B, every 1 has a 2)
- o   Proper Indentation

❑ Capitalization and Spelling

❑ Grammar and Mechanics

❑ Ideas Follow Working Outline

❑ Ideas Are Clearly Relevant to Thesis

❑ Sufficient depth and Logically Sequenced

- o   Works from big to small: broad concepts >> specific ideas >> concrete examples
- o   Roman Numerals >> Capital Letters >> Numbers >> Lower-Case Letters

Points   ___/10

(½ in.)
Potter i

(1 in.)

Humor in Science Fiction

Thesis: Science fiction writers, such as Kurt Vonnegut in his book *Cat's Cradle*, often use humor to emphasize new themes in an old genre, or as a method to spread a message about society and the direction in which it is heading.

I.   Origins of humorous science fiction

    A.   Thematic motivation

        1.   Political message

        2.   Social message

            a.   Dignity

            b.   Acceptance

    B.   Artistic motivation

D. McEvilly, English