

Category	Excellent (5)	Good (4)	Needs (3) improvement	Poor (2/1/0)	Score/comment
Sentences/ Paragraphs/ Format	Sentences and paragraphs are complete. A wide variety of conjunctions and transitions.	All sentences are complete. Paragraphing is generally done well. Some conjunctions and transitions are used correctly.	Some sentences are okay but many are short. Paragraphing is okay. Conjunctions/ transitions attempted, but are incorrect.	Many sentence fragments or run-on sentences . Paragraphs need work. Sentences are short. Conjunctions and transitions are used incorrectly	
Grammar/ Spelling/ Vocabulary/ punctuation	1-2 small errors. Good use of higher level vocab.	3-5 small errors. Some higher level vocab used.	6-8 errors. Uses simple words correctly. No attempt to use higher level vocab.	Writer makes so many errors that it is difficult to read. No attempt at higher level vocab. Terrible punctuation.	
Hook/Thesis statement/ topic sentences (transition sentence) restating the thesis	Excellent	Good	Some good, some bad	Terrible or didn't have.	
Ideas	Ideas are expressed in a clear and organized fashion. The supporting examples are strong.	Ideas are expressed in a clear manner, but the organization could be better. Mix of strong and weak supporting examples.	Ideas are not clear. More weak than strong supporting examples.	Extremely weak supporting examples, or none at all.	
Task completion/ Effect on the reader	It is easy to understand the main point on the first reading. It "reads easily."	The essay is easy to understand upon first reading, but 1 or 2 areas could use some improvement.	The essay is not easily understood up first reading. Second or third reading is required.	The essay is not able to be understood even upon 3 or 4 readings.	