

	Exceeds Expectations	Meets Expectations	Below Expectations	Does Not Meet Expectations
Introduction & Thesis Statement _____ / 10	The introduction includes an effective hook and transitions to the thesis statement. The thesis statement states an arguable opinion.	The introduction includes a hook and transitions to the thesis statement, which states an arguable opinion.	One element of an introduction is missing (hook, narrowing to thesis, strong, arguable thesis).	More than one element of an introduction is missing (hook, narrowing to thesis, strong, arguable thesis).
Body Paragraphs & Organization _____ / 30	Examples and support are organized in a logical order. Each body paragraph has a well-written topic sentence and support that connect to the thesis.	Examples and support are provided in a fairly logical order. Each body paragraph has a topic sentence that supports the thesis.	A few of the support details or examples are not in a logical order, distracting the reader and making the essay seem confusing. Weak topic sentences.	Many of the support details or examples are not in a logical order, distracting the reader and making the essay seem very confusing. Topic sentences do not support thesis.
Support from the text _____ / 30	The essay remains focused and includes insightful, direct evidence from the text supports thesis. The writer uses insightful commentary to connect textual support to topic sentences & thesis.	The essay remains focused and includes direct evidence from the text to support the thesis. The writer uses commentary to connect textual support to the topic sentences and thesis.	The essay remains mostly focused and includes some direct evidence from the text to support the thesis. The writer occasionally uses effective commentary.	The essay is not very focused and/or does not include direct evidence from the text. The writer does not include commentary to connect quotes to the topic sentences or thesis.
Conclusion _____ / 10	The conclusion is strong and leaves the reader solidly understanding the writer's position. An effective restatement of the thesis is included.	The conclusion is recognizable and understandable. The author's thesis is restated.	The conclusion is recognizable. The author's thesis is restated within the closing paragraph.	The thesis is not restated or is found in the same wording as the introduction. The essay is not summed up.
Conventions _____ / 10	Author makes virtually no errors in grammar, spelling, or punctuation that distract the reader from the content. Effective parallelism used (x5).	Author makes few errors in grammar, spelling, or punctuation that distract the reader from the content. Parallelism is mostly effective with 1 or 2 errors.	Author makes some errors in grammar, spelling, or punctuation that distract the reader from the content. Some use of parallelism, but multiple errors.	Author makes excessive errors in grammar, spelling, or punctuation that distract the reader from the content. Parallelisms are incorrect or missing from essay.
Requirements _____ / 10	All requirements are met (MLA formatting, word count, etc.)	Paper is the correct length; one or two errors in MLA formatting.	Paper is not long enough; several errors in MLA formatting.	Paper does not meet the requirements.