

	Outstanding	Very Good	Acceptable	Unacceptable	Incomplete
MEANING	This essay presents a perspective shifting, thematically coherent controlling idea demonstrating the author's fluency with the aim of discourse employed.	The essay presents an original, thematically coherent controlling idea demonstrating mastery of the aim of discourse employed.	The essay presents a thematically coherent controlling idea. The author demonstrates competence with the aim of discourse employed.	This essay presents a thematically incoherent controlling idea, or it fails to demonstrate competence with an aim of discourse.	This essay lacks a controlling idea or wholly disregards aims of discourse.
DEVELOPMENT	The author seamlessly blends original thought with evidence and examples to support her position. All evidence is logically ordered, relevant, and enriching.	The author blends his own words with quotes and phrases. Some evidence is imprecisely chosen or placed. Some evidence is missing; some not relevant.	The author supports his premise with facts and illustrations. May read like a list, not a mixture of enriching ideas, more a scattering of details.	Insufficient or unsupportive evidence. Missing or incorrect documentation.	The essay lacks support.
ORGANIZATION	This author carefully scaffolds an essay. Ideas flow smoothly from section to section, support is logically introduced and seamlessly presented.	This essay is holistically coherent. The author stays on task throughout. She may have neglected some transitions and topic sentences.	This essay mainly focuses on the main idea. Some awkward paragraph placement, few transitions, some unorganized paragraphs.	This essay lacks topic sentences, transitions, or a controlling idea. More a list, or a rant than an essay.	This essay lacks logical paragraphs; it has no discernable structure.
LANGUAGE	This author obviously loves language. His words are precisely chosen to fit the semantic, thematic, and grammatic requirements. Beautifully constructed sentences are a joy to read.	This author is learning to enjoy language. Sentence form and length vary. Appropriate rhetorical devices employed.	This author writes simply and directly. All sentences are grammatically correct but they may lack "elegance." Proper use of rhetorical devices.	No variation in sentence form. No rhetorical device used. Some grammatical errors.	Some sentences lack subjects or predicates. Some are rambling strings of subjects and predicates. Author does not demonstrate mastery of sentence.
CONVENTIONS	No errors even when writing sophisticated sentence forms.	Very few errors and those only exist where attempting sophisticated style.	Errors only in complex structure or with fairly obscure rules. No errors that MS Word would correctly flag.	Errors in spelling or grammar (subject verb agreement) that most automated checkers would catch.	Non standard English.