

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Introduction	Introduction refers specifically to the work(s), addresses the topic directly, and has a clear thesis statement.	Introduction refers specifically to the work(s), addresses the topic, and has a clear thesis statement.	Introduction makes some reference to the work(s), attempts to address the topic, and has a fairly clear thesis statement.	Introduction makes little reference to the work(s), poorly addresses the topic, and has an unclear thesis statement.
Body Paragraphs	Body paragraphs contain clear topic sentences, support the thesis, and are exceptionally well-organized.	Body paragraphs have topic sentences, support the thesis, and are fairly organized.	Body paragraphs support the thesis, attempt to address the topic, and are fairly organized.	Body paragraphs do not sufficiently support the thesis and are not organized.
Examples	Examples are specific, sufficient, and significant; they are clearly explained and connected directly to the thesis.	Examples are specific, sufficient, and reasonably well-explained; they support the thesis.	Examples and explanations are fair and/or insufficient; they provide some support to the thesis.	Examples and explanations are unclear and insufficient; they provide little support to the thesis.
Conclusion	Conclusion clearly restates the thesis, reinforces the major points and makes a broader statement about the topic.	Conclusion sums up the thesis and reinforces it well.	Conclusion does not fully sum up or reinforce the thesis.	Conclusion sums up the thesis poorly with little reinforcement.
Conventions (Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation)	Spelling, grammar, and punctuation are accurate and nearly perfect.	Spelling, grammar, and punctuation are mostly accurate with few errors.	Spelling, grammar, and punctuation are fair with some obvious errors.	Spelling, grammar, and punctuation are poor with frequent errors.
Word Choice	Language is precise and well-chosen; sentences are rich and varied.	Language is well-chosen; sentences are varied.	Language is fair; some sentence variety.	Language is poor, little sentence variety.
Audience and Purpose	Audience and purpose are clearly evident.	Audience and purpose are evident.	Audience and purpose are discernible.	Audience and purpose are not apparent.