

CATEGORY	Exemplary	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Unacceptable
Opening Paragraph and Thesis Statement (20 Points)	20 points	15 points	10 points	5 points
	The opening paragraph begins with the thesis statement and previews points supporting the thesis.	The opening paragraph contains the thesis statement near the end of the paragraph and previews of the supporting points are weak or fuzzy.	The opening paragraph does not include a thesis statement, merely implying what the thesis statement may be.	The opening paragraph lacks a thesis statement and fails to preview supporting points.
Body Paragraphs (40 Points)	40 points	30 points	20 points	10 points
	Overall, the three body paragraphs clearly and logically express the topic points while utilizing a variety of helpful transitions within and between paragraphs.	Overall, the three body paragraphs fairly clearly express the topic points, but the use of effective transitions is somewhat weak and uneven.	Overall, the three body paragraphs poorly express the topic points, and there are no effective transitions and the paper is difficult to read.	Overall, the three body paragraphs fail to clearly or logically express apparent or implied supporting points and transitions are non-existent.
Concluding Paragraph (20 Points)	20 points	15 points	10 points	5 points
	The concluding paragraph re-states the thesis and clearly reviews the three supporting points.	The concluding paragraph re-states the thesis but reviews of the supporting point reviews are weak.	The concluding paragraph does not re-state the thesis statement and reviews of supporting points are lacking.	There is no concluding paragraph. The essay just ends.
Mechanics (10 Points)	10 points	8 points	5 points	2 points
	Student does not make any errors in grammar or spelling, especially those that distract the reader from the content.	Student makes 1-2 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.	Student makes 3-4 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.	Student makes more than 4 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.
Format - APA Format, Citations, Organization, Transitions (10 Points)	10 points	8 points	5 points	2 points
	The paper is written in proper APA and organizational format. All sources used for quotes and facts are credible and cited correctly. Excellent organization, including a variety of thoughtful transitions.	The paper is written in proper format with only 1-2 errors. All sources used for quotes and facts are credible, and most are cited correctly. Adequate organization includes a variety of appropriate transitions.	The paper is written in proper format with only 3-5 errors. Most sources used for quotes and facts are credible and cited correctly. Essay is poorly organized, but may include a few effective transitions.	The paper is not written in proper format. Many sources used for quotes and facts are less than credible (suspect) and/or are not cited correctly. Essay is disorganized and does not include effective transitions.