

	1 Beginning	2 Progressing	3 Proficient	4 Advanced
Ideas and Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> creates no understanding of writer's opinion severely strays from prompt/topic lacks supporting examples/reasons repetitious, disconnected, random ideas, no persuasive arguments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> creates limited understanding of writer's opinion strays from prompt/topic presents limited examples/reasons, but fails to develop them contains few persuasive arguments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> creates general understanding of writer's opinion usually focused on prompt/topic contains adequate, relevant supporting examples/reasons arguments acceptable, if not unique 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> clearly conveys writer's opinion well focused on prompt/topic contains numerous, relevant, supporting examples/reasons arguments are distinctive/unique
Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> introduction, body, conclusion not identifiable sequencing of ideas almost nonexistent pacing is awkward transitions missing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> introduction, body, conclusion is incomplete sequencing of ideas often lacks coherence pacing sometimes inconsistent transitions often repetitious, predictable or weak 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> includes introduction, body, conclusion sequencing of ideas is somewhat logical, rational, effective pacing fairly well-controlled transitions generally varied/effective 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> includes effective introduction, body, conclusion sequencing of ideas is logical, rational, effective pacing is well-controlled sophisticated transitions clearly show how ideas connect
Voice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> fails to show commitment to topic is not engaging uses inappropriate tone for audience/purpose anticipates none of readers' questions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> shows minimal commitment to topic seldom individualistic, expressive, or engaging sometimes lacks appropriate tone for audience/purpose anticipates few of readers' questions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> shows some commitment to topic occasionally individualistic, expressive, engaging uses tone appropriate for audience/purpose anticipates many of readers' questions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> shows strong commitment to topic frequently individualistic, expressive, engaging uses appropriate/effective tone for audience/purpose anticipates readers' questions throughout
Word Choice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses language that is neither specific nor precise displays abundance of misused/overused words and phrases exhibits limited vocabulary uses clichés and jargon that distract the reader 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses language that is occasionally specific/precise displays language that sometimes seems forced/contrived for purpose/audience uses few vivid words/phrases some overuse of clichés and jargon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses language that is usually specific/precise displays language that is generally appropriate for purpose/audience uses some vivid words/phrases generally avoids clichés and jargon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses language that is specific, precise displays language that seems natural/appropriate for purpose/audience effectively uses vivid words/phrases avoids jargon/clichés
Sentence Fluency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses sentence that almost never vary in length/structure phrasing is choppy, incomplete, rambling or awkward throughout fragments/run-ons confuse readers dialogue, if present, used inappropriately 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses sentences that sometimes vary in length/structure uses phrasing that sometimes seems rambling, forced, contrived occasionally uses sentence fragments/run-ons dialogue, if present, sounds unnatural 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses sentences that generally vary in length/structure uses phrasing that usually sounds natural/conveys meaning fragments/run-ons may add style dialogue, if present, usually sounds natural 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses sentences of varying length/structure throughout uses phrasing that sounds natural/conveys meaning uses no ineffective sentence fragments/run-ons dialogue, if present, sounds natural
Conventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> paragraphing is missing, irregular, or too frequent errors in grammar, usage, punctuation, and spelling seriously distract the reader 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> paragraphing, if attempted, is weak errors in grammar, usage, punctuation, and spelling appear frequently and somewhat distract the reader 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> attempts at paragraphing are mostly successful contains few errors in grammar, usage, punctuation, and spelling – especially with sophisticated constructs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> paragraphing is sound grammar, usage, spelling, punctuation generally correct conventions may be manipulated for stylistic effect