

Category	Not Acceptable	Acceptable	Proficient	Exemplary
Thesis	3 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unrelated to topic Inaccurate Irrefutable/obvious Poorly written Not apparent 	5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relates to topic Fulfills assignment Broad/superficial Functional 	6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addresses topic Guiding idea Well written 	7 8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engages topic Controlling Idea Stimulating Passionate
	Introduction	7 8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fails to introduce topic Disorganized Rushed/incomplete No opening 	9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partially introduces topic Some organization Undeveloped Abrupt ending 	10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduces topic Organized Formulaic Broad opening
Body		10 11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No topic sentences Does not support thesis Little organization 	12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weak topic sentences Not entirely relevant Not well organized 	13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Topic sentences Supports thesis Logical organization Some questions left unanswered
	Conclusion	7 8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not relate to thesis or body New, unrelated information Abrupt ending 	9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restates thesis without originality No summary Rushed, choppy, and/or incomplete ending 	10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restates thesis Summarizes some ideas from body Perfunctory closing
Transitions and Clinchers		5 6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Absent 	7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Used sporadically or incorrectly 	8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Used ineffectively at times Mechanical
	Evidence and Argument	10 11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimal evidence Poorly selected Point unexplained Quotations absent, inaccurate, or not cited Factual inaccuracies No argument 	12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insufficient evidence Indifferently selected Does not illustrate points Some quotations improperly cited, or misused Little originality Gaps in argument 	13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sufficient evidence Well selected Illustrates points Quotations not always properly written, cited, or explained Some original thought Adequate argument
Voice and Vocabulary		3 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inconsistently uses appropriate voice Voice is stilted or phony Informal language or too much slang 	5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Usually uses appropriate voice Voice is not writer's Some informal language 	6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consistently uses appropriate voice Voice is not always natural Some descriptive language
	Mechanics and Syntax	8 9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Errors impair meaning Simplistic sentences Disjointed 	10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several errors in grammar/spelling Unsophisticated sentences Does not flow 	11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Few grammar errors Adequate variety in sentence structure Uneven flow
Presentation and Format		2 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not follow MLA Excessive proofreading errors 	4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several formatting errors Several proofreading errors 	5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minor format errors Minimal proofreading errors