

	Ideas	Organization	Word Choice	Sentence Fluency and Voice	Conventions
	<i>Focused on a strong central claim or thesis, clear purpose, and an understanding of the audience</i>	<i>Unified structure, effective organization, and strong transitions</i>	<i>Precise, rich language that expresses ideas and engages the reader</i>	<i>Rhythmic and flowing language, varied sentences, and a unique perspective with ideas and details that appeal to the audience</i>	<i>Mechanical and grammatical accuracy</i>
Weight	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%
6	Exceptional Well-developed claim using a wide variety of relevant supporting reasoning, evidence, and concrete details appropriate to the prompt, task, purpose, and audience	Exceptional Cohesive structure that is easy for the reader to follow; an engaging introduction; a strong conclusion; and strong, effective transitions	Exceptional Precise language with a variety of powerful and engaging words, well-structured and varied sentences, and excellent use of specific words and academic vocabulary	Exceptional Extremely clear, natural, and flowing sentences with strong variation in length and structure; writing that shows a distinct personality; and style that is very well matched to the topic	Exceptional Few or no errors in grammar, mechanics, punctuation, and spelling
5	Experienced Clearly developed claim with sufficient use of relevant supporting reasoning, evidence, and details that are largely appropriate to the prompt, task, purpose, and audience	Experienced Mostly cohesive structure that is fairly easy for the reader to follow, a good introduction and conclusion, and consistent and varied transitions	Experienced Lively language with a variety of engaging words, well-structured and varied sentences, and good use of specific words and academic vocabulary	Experienced Clear, natural, and flowing sentences with good variation in length and structure; writing that shows personality; and style that is well matched to the topic	Experienced Few errors in grammar, mechanics, punctuation, and spelling that do not affect the writing significantly
4	Capable Adequately developed claim with sufficient use of relevant supporting reasoning, evidence, and details somewhat appropriate to the prompt, task, purpose, and audience	Capable Generally cohesive structure with a clear introduction and conclusion, and some use of transitions	Capable Interesting language with some variation of words; structured, somewhat varied sentences; and adequate use of specific words and academic vocabulary	Capable Easy-to-follow sentences with some variation in length and structure, writing that shows limited personality, and style that is appropriate to the topic	Capable Some errors in grammar, mechanics, punctuation, and spelling that do not affect the writing significantly
3	Developing Briefly developed claim with inconsistent or insufficient use of supporting reasoning and evidence with limits in appropriateness to the prompt, task, purpose, and audience	Developing Some elements of structure with limited coherence, an adequate introduction and conclusion, and inconsistent transitions	Developing Ordinary language with insufficient variety, simple sentences with little variation, and some use of specific words and academic vocabulary	Developing Varied sentences that still need better flow, variation, and structure; writing that shows little personality; and style that is not well suited to the purpose	Developing Errors in grammar, mechanics, punctuation, and spelling that cause confusion
2	Emerging Suggested claim but demonstration of minimal understanding of the prompt, purpose, and audience; few parts of the task completed	Emerging Little paragraph structure and cohesiveness, a poor introduction and conclusion, and few transitions	Emerging Uninteresting language, no variation in word choice, simple sentences with no variation, and infrequent use of specific words and academic vocabulary	Emerging Sentences that are too simple or incomplete, choppy writing, writing that shows unclear and inconsistent personality, and style that is inappropriate	Emerging Consistent errors in grammar, mechanics, punctuation, and spelling that significantly interfere with the writing
1	Beginning Underdeveloped or missing claim; little supporting evidence; and details that are inappropriate to the prompt, task, purpose, and audience	Beginning No paragraph structure or cohesion, an unclear introduction and/or conclusion, and no transitions	Beginning Vague language with general and repetitive words, simple sentences with no variation, and specific words or academic vocabulary not used	Beginning Incomplete or incorrect sentences containing errors and little or no structure, writing that shows no personality, and a lack of understanding of style	Beginning Severe errors in grammar, mechanics, punctuation, and spelling that make the writing unclear