	5	4	3	2	1
Thesis/ Controlling Idea: • Articulation of a thesis or controlling idea • Quality of thesis	Thesis is sufficiently focused, fully arguable, capable of being supported by evidence, and indicates serious consideration given to alternative points of view	Thesis is sufficiently focused, fully arguable, capable of being supported by evidence, and indicates some consideration given to alternative points of view	Thesis is sufficiently focused, fully arguable, and capable of being supported by evidence	Thesis is capable of being supported by evidence, but it is either not entirely arguable or is insufficiently focused	Thesis or controlling idea not articulated or insufficiently focused, not arguable, and/or incapable of being verified or supported by evidence
Organization: • Thesis driven organization • Introduction and conclusion • Transitions • Paragraph division • Unnecessary repetition • Digression	Consistently effective organization around the thesis; all paragraphs link back to thesis	Generally effective organization around the thesis with minimal organizational problems	Generally effective organization around the thesis, but with some organizational problems	Some attempt to organize around the thesis but generally not effective OR generally effective organization around the thesis but with significant organizational problems otherwise	No organizational structure apparent, or some organizational structure but not organized around the thesis
Paragraph Structure: • Topic sentences • Coherence/ cohesion • Paragraph focus	All paragraphs are effectively structured	Almost all paragraphs are effectively structured with minimal problems	Most paragraphs are effectively structured but occasional problems	Some paragraphs are effectively structured but some are not	No effective paragraph structure; problems throughout
Sentence Structure and Readability • Vocabulary • Rhetorical sophistication	Consistently effective sentence structure; skilled phrasing and rhetorical sophistication present	Consistently effective sentence structure; voice/tone/voc abulary enhance the paper's ideas	Generally effective sentence structure with some less effective sentences; voice/tone and vocabulary are generally suitable, only occasionally work against the paper's ideas	Some overly simple or awkward sentence structure; unskilled or inappropriate voice/tone and unsophisticated and/or imprecise vocabulary distract from the paper's ideas.	Prevalence of overly simple or awkward sentence structure and unsophisticated or imprecise vocabulary to the point that they hinder understanding.
Mechanics: • Grammar • Spelling • Punctuation • Proofreading	Virtually free of mechanical errors	Very few mechanical errors which cause no distraction and are not serious	Mechanical errors which are noticeable, but cause only minimal distraction and are not serious	Several mechanical errors, which may interfere with meaning and distract the reader	Frequent serious mechanical errors which interfere with the meaning and/or distract the reader