

Score	4	3	2	1
Ideas/content	Essay has a clear focus, ideas are compelling, there is good development and strong support.	Focus is apparent, some development takes place, and ideas offer support, though it may not be consistent.	Focus is not clear, ideas need development, and/or more support is needed for ideas.	No focus, lack of development and/or support may be unacceptably brief.
Organization	Introduction includes a strong thesis, clear topic sentences, smooth transitions between ideas, and strong closure.	Clear introduction, body, and conclusions, although transitions could be smoother.	Lapses in organization begin to detract from the meaning of the essay.	Organization is unclear or essay consists of one long paragraph with no sorting and grouping of ideas.
Voice/word choice	Voice sounds like an individual, with consistency throughout the piece; word choice is precise and sophisticated.	Voice is good, though not superlative; words are correct and sufficient to convey meaning.	Voice is inconsistent; word choice is not always correct.	Voice may be inappropriate; words are carelessly chosen or just plain wrong.
Sentence structure/writing conventions	Sentence structure is correct and varied; few, if any, grammar errors.	Sentence structure is generally correct, though not as varied as it could be; some grammar errors.	Sentence structure errors require frequent rereading; grammar errors begin to impede meaning.	Poor sentence structure; many grammar errors.