

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS	ADDITIONAL FOCUS			
	4	3	2	1
<u>Ideas/Content</u> Exhibits understanding and Interpretation of the task	Addresses the assigned topic/content in an interesting, powerful, and knowledgeable way	Addresses the assigned Topic/content in an acceptable way	Partially addresses the assigned topic/ content and /or illustrates limited knowledge	Addresses the assigned Topic/ content minimally or not at all
<u>Organization</u> Direction Focus Coherence Order	Well organized/ fully developed – easy to follow organization Clear focus and direction Relevant details Clear & appropriate transitions	Organized and shows development Clear focus with some inconsistencies Provides some details Uses some transitions	Some organization is evident Lacks clear focus Is generally unstructured Uses few transitions	Unclear Lacks focus and structure Difficult to follow No use of transitions
<u>Development</u> Level at which ideas are supported with details/evidence	Effective development using a wide range of specific, evidence and relevant details in a compelling and insightful manner	Development uses some specific evidence and relevant details in a logical manner	Limited/brief development with little evidence and relevant details Sections are illogical and unclear	Minimal development with a lack of evidence and / or invalid details
<u>Language Use/ Sentence Fluency</u> Voice appropriate word choice Vivid/specific language Variety of sentences	Excellent word choice, appropriately adjusted to subject and audience Excellent use of specific and vivid language in skillful and creative sentence variety	Appropriate word choice, adjusted to subject and audience Uses specific language and varies sentences appropriately	Word choice is rarely adjusted to subject and audience Sentences are unvaried, and some language is imprecise	Word choice is not adjusted to subject and audience Language lacks variety
<u>Conventions/Mechanics</u> Spelling Grammar Paragraphing Punctuation/Capitalization	Effective control of written language Minimal errors in spelling, grammar, & punctuation advance understanding	Control of rules for written language Few and infrequent errors which do not impede understanding	Some control of the rules of written language Errors create confusion and interfere with meaning	Little control of rules of written language Many errors in spelling, grammar, and punctuation which confuse meaning