

Introduction

Exemplary Contains an interesting hook, adequate background information, and a strong thesis	Proficient Contains a hook, background information, and a thesis.	Developing Missing or partial background information and/or hook. Thesis is present.	Basic No introduction/ no thesis statement.
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Body Paragraphs

Exemplary The body paragraphs include excellent detail, sufficient evidence, and at least one quote per body paragraph. The examples are thoroughly explained.	Proficient The body paragraphs include adequate detail, some evidence, and at least one quote per body paragraph. The examples are somewhat explained.	Developing The body paragraphs include some detail and evidence. One body quotation may be missing. There is an attempt at explaining the examples.	Basic The body paragraphs are lacking detail and either do not have a quotation to use supporting evidence or the quote is irrelevant to the argument.
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Conclusion

Exemplary The conclusion restates the thesis and includes a final statement, thought, or idea	Proficient Conclusion only restates the thesis.	Developing Conclusion only restates the thesis. Limited information.	Basic No conclusion
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MLA Format

Exemplary There are no MLA formatting or citing errors.	Proficient There are a few MLA formatting or citing errors.	Developing There are formatting and citing errors. In-text citation errors.	Basic The paper is not in MLA format
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Grammar

Exemplary	Proficient	Developing	Basic
No grammatical errors	Few minor grammatical errors	Few major grammatical errors	Paper contains many major grammatical errors.

Style

Exemplary	Proficient	Developing	Basic
No contractions and no 1st or 2nd person personal pronouns. Transitions between paragraphs and sentences are strong. Variation in length between sentences.	Paper contains fewer than three contractions and/or 1st or 2nd person personal pronouns. Some transitions used.	Limited transitions used or used ineffectively. Sentences are either run-on or lacking in variation.	Paper contains many major stylistic errors.

Organization

Exemplary	Proficient	Developing	Basic
The paper is organized in a logical manner. The structure of each body paragraph moves from topic sentence to summary to textual evidence followed by analysis.	The paper is partially organized.	The paper is lacking organization, transitions, and fluency.	Paper lacks all organization.