**Directions:** Your essay will be graded based on this rubric. Consequently, use this rubric as a guide when writing your essay and check it again before you submit your essay.

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| **Traits/Criteria** | **4** | **3** | **2** | **1** |
| FOCUS/Details | There is one clear, well focused topic. Mainideas are clear andare well supported bydetailed and accurateinformation | There is one clear, well focused topic. Mainideas are clear but arenot well supported bydetailed information | There is one topic.Main ideas aresomewhat clear | The topic and mainideas are not clear. |
| Organization | The introduction isinviting, states the maintopic, and providesan overview of thepaper. Information isrelevant and presentedin a logical order. Theconclusion is strong. | The introduction statesthe main topic andprovides an overviewof the paper. Aconclusion is included | The introduction statesthe main topic. Aconclusion is included | There is no clearintroduction, structure,or conclusion. |
| Voice | The author’s purposeof writing is very clear,and there is strongevidence of attentionto audience. Theauthor’s extensiveknowledge and/orexperience with thetopic is/are evident. | The author’s purposeof writing is somewhatclear, and there is someevidence of attentionto audience. Theauthor’s knowledgeand/or experience withthe topic is/are evident | The author’s purposeof writing is somewhatclear, and there isevidence of attentionto audience. Theauthor’s knowledgeand/or experience withthe topic is/are limited. | The author’s purpose ofwriting is unclear. |
| Word Choice | The author uses vividwords and phrases. Thechoice and placementof words seemsaccurate, natural, andnot forced. | The author uses vividwords and phrases. Thechoice and placementof words is inaccurateat times and/or seemsoverdone. | The author uses wordsthat communicateclearly, but the writinglacks variety. | The writer uses alimited vocabulary.Jargon or clichés maybe present and detractfrom the meaning |
| Sentence Structure, Grammar, Mechanics, Spelling | All sentences are wellconstructed and havevaried structure andlength. The authormakes no errors ingrammar, mechanics,and/or spelling. | Most sentences arewell constructed andhave varied structureand length. The authormakes a few errors ingrammar, mechanics,and/or spelling, butthey do not interferewith understanding. | Most sentences are wellconstructed, but theyhave a similar structureand/or length. Theauthor makes severalerrors in grammar,mechanics, and/orspelling that interferewith understanding. | Sentences soundawkward, aredistractingly repetitive,or are difficult tounderstand. The authormakes numerous errorsin grammar, mechanics,and/or spellingthat interfere withunderstanding. |