

	A	B	C	D
<p>Content The Point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Does the essay achieve its objective as laid out by the essay assignment? Does it achieve the purpose established by the writer's thesis? - Is the writer's thesis and viewpoint original and interesting? 	<p>The writer's ideas are original, interesting, and exciting, and her/his essay effectively persuades the audience and achieves its purpose.</p>	<p>The writer expresses original and compelling ideas; however, some aspects of the essay are more convincing than others. The essay meets the assignment's objective.</p>	<p>The writer has a vague argument or struggles to present her/his ideas coherently. The essay lacks original insight and/or does not achieve its objective.</p>	<p>The essay has no main point, is incomplete, and/or does not make sense. The essay fails to satisfy the assignment's objective or does not bear any correlation to that objective. The writer's ideas are not original because the writer has plagiarized another writer's argument.</p>
<p>Focus and Organization The Skeleton</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is there a thesis? - Does the writer maintain his/her focus throughout the essay? - Is there a clear and logical structure to the essay? - Does each paragraph have one main focus? Are the paragraphs organized? - Does the writer include transitions between sections? 	<p>The writer has a clearly articulated and focused thesis. The writer maintains his/her thesis throughout the body of the essay. There is a clear and logical pattern of organization to the essay. Each paragraph has a specific focus and a clear connection to the thesis. The overall structure and the structure of the individual paragraphs works well.</p>	<p>The writer has a thesis that is clearly identifiable but could be more narrowly focused or specifically worded. There is a clear and logical pattern of organization to the essay. While the overall structure works, some paragraphs could be better organized. Many of the paragraphs are focused, but the connections among them and/between the body paragraphs and the thesis could be strengthened.</p>	<p>The writer has a thesis, but it lacks specificity and a strong relation to the content of the essay. It is vague. The essay struggles to present ideas in an organized way that is easy to follow. There are problems with the way the writers organizes his/her ideas in paragraphs. More paragraphs lack a focus than contain one, and/or sections of the essay may seem unrelated to each other.</p>	<p>The essay does not have a main point or singular focus. There is no thesis. It is difficult to follow the writer's line of thinking. The argument is not presented coherently or logically, and digressions obscure the focus. Individual paragraphs bear little/no relation to each other or to an overall main point.</p>
<p>Development The Proof</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Does the writer develop her/his argument and flesh out her/his ideas in adequate detail? - Does the writer back her/his claims with specific supporting evidence and outside research? - Does the writer use examples, details, and anecdotes to <i>show</i> the audience what s/he means? - Does the writer include a <i>variety</i> of supporting evidence? Is it relevant/well-chosen? - Does the writer respond to her/his examples and connect 	<p>The writer backs up her/his argument with effective supporting evidence. The writer discusses in detail the significance of that evidence, drawing connections between the evidence and the claim it supports. The examples and source material perfectly illustrate the writer's thesis. The writer proves her/his point, offering convincing, substantial argumentation.</p>	<p>The writer mostly supports her/his argument with evidence. The writer occasionally discusses the significance of that evidence and connects the evidence to the point it illustrates. The writer's evidence supports her/his points effectively; the evidence is well-chosen. The writer uses persuasive argumentation effectively to drive her/his points home.</p>	<p>The writer does not include enough supporting evidence. The evidence/examples the writer includes may not relate to or substantiate the focus. Connections between the proof and the point it supports are unclear. The argument requires more substantial and/or appropriately selected research to be effectively persuasive. The writer "tells" the audience his/her points instead of "showing" us.</p>	<p>Either the writer does not include specific supporting evidence or outside sources at all, or there is no discernible relationship between the evidence and the ideas it intends to support. The writer fails to explain or develop her/his argument; s/he simply inserts evidence without responding to its significance or using it to push the argument.</p>

them to the claims they support?			The argumentation may be illogical, underdeveloped, or lacking entirely.	
<p>Style and Mechanics The Voice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are the writer's voice, tone, and diction appropriate to the subject, purpose, and audience? - Does the writer express his/her ideas with clarity and precision? - How effectively does the writer integrate quotations/information from sources? - Is the writer able to foreground his/her voice? - Does the writer cite sources using the correct MLA format for in-text citations? - Does the writer use grammatically correct constructions? - Does the writer's Works Cited page contain the necessary documentation, accurately presented? 	<p>The writer captivates the audience with his/her voice and style. The essay has an easy flow. The writer uses language creatively & with precision. The writer seamlessly integrates outside research with his/her argument, maintaining his/her voice. The writer consistently uses the correct MLA format to cite his/her sources within the body of the essay. There are no issues with grammar, usage, punctuation, or format. The writer includes a Works Cited page that includes each source cited in the essay and documents them accurately in MLA format.</p>	<p>The writer engages the audience with his/her voice and style. The essay flows rather easily, with few mechanical errors or awkward expressions. The writer integrates outside research with his/her argument and maintains his/her voice throughout most of the essay. The writer mostly uses correct MLA format to cite his/her sources within the body of the essay. There may be a minor mistake or two, but almost all of the sources are accurately cited within the text. Grammar and usage are mostly correct. The writer includes a Works Cited page that contains each source cited in the essay and documents them in MLA format. There may be a minor mistake or two, but almost all of the sources are accurately documented.</p>	<p>The writer's voice is inconsistent – it is stronger at some points than others. There is some awkwardness of expression that makes the writer's meaning unclear at several points in the essay and interferes with readers' ability to follow the writer's train of thought. The writer struggles to integrate outside research with his/her argument and maintain his/her voice; there are abrupt gaps and disconnects in the moments when the writer tries to incorporate the voices of his/her sources. The writer mostly does not use correct MLA format to cite his/her sources within the body of the essay. The mistakes outnumber the instances when the writer cites his or her sources accurately within the text. The writer uses incorrect grammar frequently. The writer includes a Works Cited page, yet it may not contain all of the sources cited in the essay. The writer includes a Works Cited page, yet it fails to document most of the sources accurately in correct MLA format.</p>	<p>The writer's style, syntax, and diction are awkward, choppy, and unclear. The writer's meaning is often obscured by too many mechanical errors or awkward expressions. The writer does not effectively integrate outside sources. The writer plagiarizes other source's arguments within the body of the essay by failing to attribute other writers' ideas to them. The writer fails to use correct MLA format to cite his/her sources within the body of the essay. The writer does not include a Works Cited page. The writer includes a Works Cited page, but it fails to document any of the writer's sources in correct MLA format. The writer's errors in documentation result in plagiarism.</p>

