

Essay Title:

Student Name:

Element	Distinguished 5 Points	Proficient 4 Points	Intermediate 3 points	Novice 1 point	PTS
Purpose and Focus	Establishes and maintains clear focus; evidence of distinctive voice, and/or appropriate tone	Focused on a purpose; evidence of voice and/or suitable tone	Attempts to establish and maintain purpose and communicate with the audience	Limited awareness of audience and/or purpose	
Quality of Information	Information clearly relates to the main topic. It includes several supporting details and/or examples	Information clearly relates to the main topic. It provides some supporting details and/or examples	Information clearly relates to the main topic. No details and/or examples are given	Information has little or nothing to do with the main topic	
Development of Ideas	Depth and complexity of ideas supported by rich, engaging and/or pertinent details, evidence of analysis, reflection, and insight	Depth of idea development supported by relevant details	Unelaborated idea development and/or repetitious details	Minimal idea development and/or purpose	
Documentation	Variety of sources are used and are properly cited	Some variety of sources are used and are properly cited	Few sources are used and citations are incomplete	Limited sources improperly cited	
Organization	Information is very organized with well-constructed paragraphs and subheadings	Information is organized with well-constructed paragraphs	Information is organized, but paragraphs are not well constructed	Information is disorganized	
Sentence Structure	Variety of sentence structure and length	Controlled and varied sentence structure	Simplistic and/or awkward sentence structure	Ineffective wording and/or sentence structure	
Language Choice	Precise and/or rich language	Acceptable, effective language	Simplistic and/or imprecise language	No understanding of variety of language	
Mechanics	No grammatical, spelling, or punctuation errors	Almost no grammatical, spelling, or punctuation errors	A few grammatical, spelling, and/or punctuation errors	Many grammatical, spelling, and/or punctuation errors	
MLA Formatting	Completely and thoroughly demonstrates mastery of MLA format and style	Follows expected MLA format style throughout the paper	Generally follows MLA style with slight variation	Limited adherence to MLA format style	
Readability	Writing is clear and concise	Writing generally clear; meaning sometimes hidden	Writing is inconsistent, sometimes confusing	Writing convoluted and doesn't express intent	