

CATEGORY	4	3	2	1
<b>Topic Sentence</b>	Each paragraph starts with a well-constructed and focused topic sentence.	Almost all paragraphs start with a well-constructed topic sentence.	The topic sentences are not well constructed and they don't focus on one topic.	Paragraphs do not start with a sentence with a focused topic.
<b>Supporting Details</b>	Each paragraph contains 2 or 3 details that support the topic.	Each paragraph contains at least 2 details that support the topic.	Each paragraph contains at least 1 detail that supports the topic.	Paragraphs do not contain details that support the topic.
<b>Vocabulary</b>	Vivid words and phrases are used that bring the topic alive and are used accurately.	Vivid words and phrases are used that bring the topic alive and they may not always be used accurately.	The vocabulary words used clearly communicate ideas but there is a lack of variety.	The vocabulary used is limited and does not adequately communicate ideas.
<b>Grammar &amp; Spelling</b>	There are no errors in grammar or spelling.	There are 1 or 2 errors in grammar or spelling but they don't affect meaning.	There are 3 or 4 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.	There are more than 4 errors in grammar or spelling that make the paper difficult to understand.
<b>Capitalization &amp; Punctuation</b>	There are no errors in capitalization or punctuation.	There are 1 or 2 errors in capitalization and/or punctuation but the paper is still easy to understand.	There are a few errors in capitalization and/or punctuation that distracts from the content.	There are more than four errors in capitalization and/or punctuation that make the paper difficult to understand.
<b>Conclusion</b>	The conclusion is well constructed and draws together all the details to form an ending.	There is a conclusion and it draws together most of the details.	There is a conclusion but it doesn't draw together most of the details.	There is no clear conclusion or ending to the paper.