

Multi-Paragraph Essay

	5	4	3	2	1
Trait	More than Meets Expectations	Meets Expectations	Meets Most Expectations	Partially Meets Expectations	Does Not Meet Expectations
Focus and Coherence <i>The inclusion of information that is related and connected</i>	Maintains focus on the thesis, presenting interesting and meaningful connections between complex ideas and details.	Maintains focus on the thesis, showing a clear relationship between ideas and details.	Maintains focus on the thesis, but occasionally the relationship between ideas and details is unclear.	Attempts to focus on the thesis, but sometimes presents unrelated ideas and details.	Does not focus on the thesis. Ideas and details are presented but seem unrelated.
Organization <i>The logical ordering of information to help the reader understand the writer's ideas</i>	Includes a strong beginning, middle, and end. The beginning gets the reader's attention and tells what the essay is about. The middle provides clear and accurate information. And the end sums up major points and leaves a lasting impression. Includes clear transitions.	Includes a beginning, middle, and end. Uses some transitions.	Includes a beginning, middle, and end, but they may be weak. Uses some transitions, but some are not clear.	Omits a beginning, middle, or end. Does not include clear transitions.	Does not use logical organization. Does not attempt to use transitions.
Development of Ideas <i>The clear and thorough explanation of the writer's ideas</i>	Clearly explains complex main ideas and provides interesting and accurate supporting details.	Clearly explains main ideas and provides accurate supporting details.	Presents main ideas and provides some supporting details, but some details may be weak or inaccurate.	Presents main ideas, but leaves out important supporting details.	Does not clearly express main ideas or provide supporting details.
Word Choice <i>The precise and descriptive words that engage readers and help them appreciate the writer's ideas</i>	Uses a variety of words to make the writing interesting. Words are accurate and specific, and descriptions are insightful.	Uses somewhat varied word choice. Words are mostly accurate and specific.	Uses somewhat varied word choice, but sometimes words are not accurate or specific.	Uses basic word choice, but generally uses words appropriately.	Often chooses inaccurate or inappropriate words.
Sentence Fluency <i>Variety in sentence structure that makes writing sound smooth when read aloud</i>	Uses variety in sentence structure; language flows smoothly.	Uses some variety in sentence structure. In general, language flows smoothly.	Uses some variety in sentence structure, but some sentences or paragraphs are choppy.	Uses limited variety in sentence structure. Includes some faulty sentences.	Uses little or no variety in sentence structure. Includes many faulty sentences.
Voice <i>The sense that a real person is speaking</i>	Engages the reader. Sounds authentic and original. The tone is appropriate for the purpose. Expresses the writer's individuality as well as a unique and interesting perspective.	Engages the reader. Sounds authentic and original. The tone is appropriate for the purpose.	Usually engages the reader, but does not always sound authentic and original. The tone is sometimes not appropriate for the purpose.	Occasionally engages the reader. Contains limited sections that sound authentic and original. The tone is frequently not appropriate for the purpose.	Does not engage the reader. Does not sound authentic or original. The tone is not appropriate for the purpose.

Conventions <i>Correct spelling, grammar, capitalization, and punctuation so that the reader can focus on the writing</i>	Includes no errors or very few, and these do not impact meaning.	Includes some errors, but these do not impact meaning.	Includes some errors that are occasionally detrimental to meaning.	Includes some errors that are detrimental to meaning.	Includes numerous errors that are detrimental to meaning.
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