**Research Paper**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Advanced** | **Proficient** | **Partially Proficient** | **Unsatisfactory** | **Points** |
| **Introduction** | A thoughtful hook engages the reader  Context or history informs the reader about the topic  A focused thesis effectively states the topic, position, and argument; it is placed at the end of the introduction | The hook somewhat engages the reader  Context or history somewhat informs the reader about the topic  The thesis clearly states the topic, position, and argument; it is placed at the end of the introduction | Hook is lacking or creates confusion  Context is lacking or unclear  The thesis does not communicate the topic, position, and argument; or it is not the last sentence of the introduction | Hook is lacking or creates confusion  Context is lacking or confusing  The thesis is lacking or does not communicate the topic, position, and argument | **\_\_\_\_/5**  **\_\_\_\_/5**  **\_\_\_\_/25** |
| **Development of Ideas and Paragraph Structure**  Point  Evidence  Analysis  Evidence  Analysis  Link | Each body paragraph begins with a point which examines an aspect of the thesis  Context effectively introduces the evidence and clarifies any necessary information  Quotes and supporting details clearly support the topic of the paragraph (2 sources/quotes per body paragraph)  Analysis clearly explains connections between the evidence and point, strengthening the overall argument/thesis  Links remind the reader of the paragraph’s topic and transition into the next  Counter-claims are effectively acknowledged and refuted | Body paragraphs begin with a point which examines an aspect of the thesis  Context introduces the evidence and clarifies any necessary information  Quotes and supporting details relate to the topic of the paragraph (2 sources/quotes per body paragraph)  Analysis explains connections between the evidence and point, strengthening the overall argument/thesis  Links remind the reader of the paragraph’s topic and transition into the next  Counter-claims are acknowledged and refuted | Most body paragraphs begin with a point, but it is only loosely related to the thesis  Context somewhat introduces the evidence and clarifies any necessary information  Quotes and supporting details mostly relate to the topic of the paragraph or are inadequate (1 source/quote per body paragraph)  Analysis explains some connections between the evidence and point but does not refer to or strengthen the overall argument/thesis  Links are cumbersome or unclear, causing an abrupt change of topic for the reader  Counter-claims are not acknowledged or refuted | Points are lacking or unclear  Context is lacking or confusing  Quotes and support are lacking or do not relate clearly to the topic of the paragraph  Analysis is lacking, unfocused, or simply summarizes or paraphrases the evidence  Links are lacking or unclear, causing confusion for the reader  Counter-claims are not acknowledged or refuted | **\_\_\_\_/30**  **\_\_\_\_/20**  **\_\_\_\_/40**  **\_\_\_\_/60**  **\_\_\_\_/10**  **\_\_\_\_/10** |
| **Conclusion** | Conclusion concisely restates thesis statement (not verbatim), revisits main points in a fluid manner, and includes an insightful concluding thought that provides closure | Conclusion restates thesis statement (not verbatim), restates main points, and provides closure | Conclusion restates thesis statement in the first sentence (verbatim) and restates main points in a choppy manner; includes new information or lacks sense of closure | Conclusion does not restate thesis or does not revisit main points; includes new information or lacks sense of closure | **\_\_\_\_/20** |
| **MLA Format** | Sources are accurately documented with in-text citations in MLA format  Margins, heading, etc. fulfill MLA requirements  Works Cited page contains all sources used in text and fulfills MLA requirements  Six sources are used; they are legitimate and appropriate to the topic | Sources are accurately documented with in-text citations in MLA format  Margins, heading, etc. mostly fulfill MLA requirements  Works Cited page contains all sources used in text and mostly fulfills MLA requirements  Six sources are used; they are legitimate and appropriate to the topic | Most sources are accurately documented with in-text citations in MLA format  Margins, heading, etc. do not fulfill MLA requirements  Works Cited page contains all sources used in text but does not fulfill MLA requirements  Six sources are used; not all are legitimate and appropriate to the topic | Sources are not accurately documented in MLA format  Margins, heading, etc. do not fulfill MLA requirements  Works Cited page is incomplete and does not fulfill MLA requirements  Fewer than six sources are used; they are not legitimate or appropriate to the topic | **\_\_\_\_/20**  **\_\_\_\_/5**  **\_\_\_\_/10**  **\_\_\_\_/15** |
| **Mechanics** | No grammar, spelling, or punctuation errors present  10 vocabulary words used correctly | Few grammar, spelling, or punctuation errors present  8 vocabulary words used correctly | Many grammar, spelling, or punctuation errors present  4 vocabulary words used correctly | Grammar, spelling, or punctuation errors impede communication  0 vocabulary words | **\_\_\_\_/25**  **\_\_\_\_/10** |

**Total score: /300 points**