

## Evaluation Criteria

Score/Criteria	Thesis	Reasons and Explanations	Evidence	Organization	Grammar/Mechanics/Style
5	A clearly defined and thought-provoking arguable position which closely responds to the prompt	Supports thesis with ample reasons and explanations	Develops main idea amply with a variety of evidence	Follows an effective rhetorical strategy with clearly organized ideas	Contains no serious grammatical or mechanical errors and few, if any, minor errors; well-constructed sentences with effective transitions
4	A clearly defined arguable position which responds to the prompt	Supports thesis with reasons and explanations, but misses a central reason or has some slight gaps in explanations	Evidence is still used, but may not be as apt or persuasive	Generally follows an effective rhetorical strategy, with only minor lapses in structure	Has some grammar and mechanical errors, but few or no serious ones (serious errors include subject-verb agreement, fragments and run-on sentences); sentences are generally well-written with some transitions
3	A statement of position where the central idea is apparent though lacks specificity	Supports thesis with basic reasons and explanations	Evidence is present, but not always connected to the main idea or uses personal examples	Rhetorical strategy is evident but not maintained throughout whole essay	Has some grammar and mechanical errors including some serious ones; sentences are clear, but structurally repetitive
2	A vague statement which may contradict itself and which may wander from the prompt	Reasons are vague or irrelevant and explanation is incomplete	Evidence is inadequate and inconsistent, and often not connected to the main idea; mostly personal examples	Follows an ineffective and/or confusing organization or inappropriate strategy	Contains many errors in mechanics, grammar, and phrasing; garbled sentences with few transitions
1	No controlling statement or idea	No clear reasons and incomplete explanations	Lacks sufficient supporting evidence or evidence is unacceptably brief; all personal examples	Lacks clear organizational strategy	Contains frequent errors in mechanics, grammar, and phrasing and/or many major errors; difficult to comprehend with no transitions
0	Complete lack of argument	Complete lack of reasons and explanations	No evidence provided	No rhetorical strategy or organization apparent	Completely incomprehensible; extremely difficult to read and understand