

Content	The topic is creative, well-developed, and socially relevant to our community. The writer addresses problems and proposes solutions, The student has an excellent understanding of the topic and includes appropriate personal opinions. Main points are clear and focused. The student has gone beyond cliché details to point out new, fresh ideas. 30 points	The topic is creative and well-developed. The topic is socially relevant, but not necessarily to the community. The writer addresses problems and proposes some solutions. The student seems to have an adequate understanding of the topic and includes some personal opinions. Main points are clear. The student has pointed out some new ideas. 25 points	The writer has an identifiable topic. Problems and solutions are included but are unclear. The reader is unsure whether the writer actually understands the topic. Main points could be more focused. 20 points	The writer is struggling to identify and convey an understanding of the topic. Problems and solutions are missing, main points are sketchy. 15 points	The topic is still unclear or is irrelevant. Main points are missing and the writer has not included his/her own personal opinions. The writer does not understand the topic. This appears to be more of a ramble than an essay. 10 points
Organization	Clear and effective organization of and within paragraphs; adept use of transitions. Clear and highly effective, original, and/or complex thesis or controlling idea that unifies the entire essay. Compelling or original introduction and conclusion. 30 points	Clear organization of and within paragraphs; good use of transitions. Clear, effective thesis or controlling idea that unifies the entire essay. Effective introduction and conclusion. 25 points	Mostly clear organization of and within paragraphs; some use of transitions. Clear and appropriate thesis that unifies most of the essay. Clear and adequate introduction and conclusion. 20 points	Vaguely clear organization of or within some paragraphs; little or no use of transitions. Somewhat unclear thesis or controlling idea, limited unity. Some attempt to introduce or conclude; may be missing one or the other. 15 points	No discernible organization of or within paragraphs; incoherent. Thesis of controlling idea non-existent. No introduction or conclusion. 10 points
Mechanics/ Grammar/ Language	Contains virtually no mechanical or language errors. 20 points	Contains only minor mechanical or language errors. 15 points	May contain mechanical or language errors that do not interfere with meaning. 10 points	Contains mechanical or language errors that begin to interfere with meaning. 5 points	Contains mechanical or language errors that seriously interfere with meaning. 0 points
MLA Format/ Incorporation of Research	Contains virtually no errors in formatting and adeptly incorporates researched information. 20 points	Contains only minor errors in formatting and effectively incorporates researched information. 15 points	Contains some errors in formatting or awkwardness in incorporation; source material is cited clearly. 10 points	Contains significant errors in formatting or awkwardness in incorporation; material is unclearly cited. 5 points	No effort made to cite sources and/or no sources used. 0 points
Follows Instructions	Adheres to all assignment instructions and genre conventions. 5 points	Almost always adheres to all assignment instructions and genre conventions. 3 points	Usually adheres to most assignment instructions and genre conventions. 1 point	Wholly disregards assignment instructions and genre conventions. 0 points	Total= <hr/> 105