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| **Criteria:** |  **(4)Exceeds Expectations: 25-20 pts.** | **(3) Meets Expectations:** **19-14 pts.** | **(2) Needs Improvement:** **13-8 pts.** | **(1) Below minimum expectations: 7-0 pts.** |
| **Structure:**  **25 pts.**OrganizationFlowTransitionsFormat | Paper is logically organized and easily followedEffective, smooth, logical, transitionsProfessional format for paper’s purpose Uses sophisticated writing techniques such as a hook and a strong finish | Paper has a clear organizational structure with some digressions, ambiguities, or irrelevanciesEasily followedBasic transitionsStructured FormatUses either a hook or a strong finish but not both | There is some level of organization, though digressions, ambiguities, or irrelevancies are too manyDifficult to follow at timesIneffective transitionsRambling formatNo advanced writing techniques are present | There is no apparent organization to the paperDifficult to followNo or poor transitionsNo format |
| **Grammar/Mechanics: 25 pts.**Sentence structurePunctuationMechanics | Uses sentence that vary in length and structureManipulates complex sentences for effect/impactNo punctuation or mechanical errors | Uses compound and complex sentencesFew punctuation or mechanical errors | Only uses simple and compound sentencesToo many punctuation/mechanical errors for grade levelMastery | Only uses simple sentencesPunctuation errors interfere with the overall message of the paper |
| **Language: 25 pts.**Word ChoiceToneAudience | Word Choice is sophisticated and reflects advanced vocabulary usageWriter’s tone is clearly established throughout the paperVivid images emerge through word choiceTone is consistent and appropriate for the intended audience | Word Choice is varied, specific and appropriateWriter’s tone emerges and is generally appropriate to the audience | Word choice is unsophisticated and used properly though sentences may be simpleWord choice exhibits some level of audience sensitivity but does not adequately establish a tone for the paperA vague reference to the audience is present | Word choice is simple and not always used appropriately in very simple sentencesA tone is not established through specific word choiceThe intended audience is unclear |
| **Content: 25 pts.**Clarity of PurposeCritical and original thoughtUse of examples | Controlling idea is well developed and clarity of purpose is exhibited throughout the paperAbundance of evidenceEvidence is vivid and specificCareful thought and insight is consistently demonstrated  | Controlling idea is well developed and clarity of purpose is generally evident throughout the paperEvidence of critical thinking is present but not consistentRelevant supporting examples | Controlling idea is expressed but too broad or vagueSome evidence of careful thinking and analysis but needs further developmentThere are some examples and evidence presented though general | Controlling idea and clarity of purpose are absent or incompletely expressedLittle or no evidenceThere are too few/no examples and evidenceIrrelevant evidence |