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| CATEGORY | 5 (100%) | 4 (90%) | 3 (80%) | 2 (70%) | 1 (60%) |
| **Introduction** -hook -background  -thesis \*thesis should accurately address your prompt | **Exceptional** introduction. It **grabs the reader’s interest, provides a thorough overview, has a well-developed thesis**. | **Great** introduction. The introduction has a creative hook, **provides a clear overview**, and has **a clearly focused thesis**. | **Good** introduction. The introduction has a hook, states the **main topic and provides an overview, and has a thesis**. (The thesis may need some strengthening.) | **Basic** introduction or needs revision. The introduction states the main topic, but is **brief, lacks development and/or may be missing content.** (hook, context, thesis). | **Introduction needs a lot of work and/or development.** Missing necessary content. |
| **Body Paragraphs**  development = supporting detail, concrete detail, and analysis | **-Strong** topic sentences. -Paragraphs are very well- organized, fluid, and **thoroughly developed**.  -**Well-selected** text evidence that is **seamlessly** integrated. -Transitions used | **-Effective** topic sentences. -Paragraphs are  **very organized, fluid,** and **fully developed.  -Effective** text evidence that is integrated accurately**.** -Transitions used | -Topic sentences are used.  -Paragraphs are  **organized** and **developed.  -**Uses relevant text evidence that is integrated, but **may have minor errors.** -Attempted to use transitions. | **-**Topic sentences **may need work or are missing.** -Paragraphs are **lacking in organization and/or development**. -May have **floating quotes**.-May be **missing transitions**. | Paragraphs may not be well-constructed, organized, missing topic sentences, evidence, and/or the writing is difficult to read/follow. |
| **Conclusion**  -restate thesis -review main pts. -closure | Conclusion **cleverly restates** the thesis, thoroughly reviews main points, and provides closure by creating a “take-away” for the reader. | Conclusion **creatively restates** the thesis, reviews main points, and provides closure and leaves the reader satisfied. | Conclusion **restates the thesis**, reviews main points, and provides closure. | **-Attempts to restate the thesis but may be too similar** to the introduction and briefly reviews main points. May not have a concluding sentence. | **Conclusion needs a lot of work and/or development.** Missing necessary content. |
| **Vocabulary/**  **Word Choice** | -**Strong** vocabulary and effective word choice. -No contractions present  -Consistent verb tense | -**Attempts to use** stronger vocabulary. -No contractions present -Consistent verb tense | -**Grade appropriate** vocabulary, but writer could strengthen his/her word choices.  -No contractions present -May have inconsistent verb tenses | -**Basic, repetitive word choice** or **misuses words**. -Contractions may be present -May have inconsistent verb tenses | -**Weak, repetitive word choice** and/or misused words. -Contractions may be present |
| **Writing Mechanics & MLA Formatting** | **-Free of** grammatical, spelling, or punctuation errors.  -Essay and Works Cited page is **perfectly formatted** in MLA format. | **-Free of most** grammatical, spelling, or punctuation errors. -Essay and/or Works Cited page has **minor** MLA formatting errors. | **-Some** grammatical, spelling, or punctuation errors. -Essay and/or Works Cited page has **some** MLA formatting errors. | **-Many** grammatical spelling, or punctuation errors **or simple errors that have been reviewed** in class many times. -Essay and/or Works Cited page has **many** MLA formatting errors. | **-Frequent** grammatical, spelling, or punctuation errors that are very distracting.  -**Many** MLA formatting errors. |

\*Note: Essays may receive lower than a 60% at the discretion of the teacher.\*Essay is more than 3 pages = 5 point deduction \*Essay is less than 2 pages = 5 point deduction  
\*Missing Works Cited Page = 5 point deduction \*Essay does not accurately address the prompt.   
\*Missing paragraphs result in a 10 point deduction for each paragraph missing. \*Missing Check-off List/Rubric -2