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| CATEGORY | 4 - Above Standards | 3 - Meets Standards | 2 - Approaching Standards | 1 - Below Standards | Score |
| Position Statement | The position statement provides a clear, strong statement of the author\'s position on the topic. | The position statement provides a clear statement of the author\'s position on the topic. | A position statement is present, but does not make the author\'s position clear. | There is no position statement. |  |
| Support for Position | Includes 3 or more pieces of evidence (facts, statistics, examples, real-life experiences) that support the position statement. The writer anticipates the reader\'s concerns, biases or arguments and has provided at least 1 counter-argument. | Includes 3 or more pieces of evidence (facts, statistics, examples, real-life experiences) that support the position statement. | Includes 2 pieces of evidence (facts, statistics, examples, real-life experiences) that support the position statement. | Includes 1 or fewer pieces of evidence (facts, statistics, examples, real-life experiences). |  |
| Evidence and Examples | All of the evidence and examples are specific, relevant and explanations are given that show how each piece of evidence supports the author\'s position. | Most of the evidence and examples are specific, relevant and explanations are given that show how each piece of evidence supports the author\'s position. | At least one of the pieces of evidence and examples is relevant and has an explanation that shows how that piece of evidence supports the author\'s position. | Evidence and examples are NOT relevant AND/OR are not explained. |  |
| Accuracy | All supportive facts and statistics are reported accurately. | Almost all supportive facts and statistics are reported accurately. | Most supportive facts and statistics are reported accurately. | Most supportive facts and statistics were inaccurately reported. |  |
| Sentence Structure | All sentences are well constructed with varied structure. | Most sentences are well constructed and there is some varied sentence structure in the essay. | Most sentences are well constructed, but there is no variation is structure. | Most sentences are not well constructed or varied. |  |
| Grammar & Spelling | Author makes no errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content. | Author makes 1-2 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content. | Author makes 3-4 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content. | Author makes more than 4 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content. |  |
| Capitalization & Punctuation | Author makes no errors in capitalization or punctuation, so the essay is exceptionally easy to read. | Author makes 1-2 errors in capitalization or punctuation, but the essay is still easy to read. | Author makes a few errors in capitalization and/or punctuation that catch the reader\'s attention and interrupt the flow. | Author makes several errors in capitalization and/or punctuation that catch the reader\'s attention and interrupt the flow. |  |