|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 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.  |    |