

A: Brilliant/Excellent (90-100%)

- Introduction provides excellent background and detail.
- Thesis sentence is original and insightful it drives your essay and is threaded throughout.
- Topic sentences are original and insightful and emerge from the thesis.
- Concrete details or quotes are introduced and flow within the body of your own text.
- Commentary is insightful, elaborating and building upon your concrete details.
- Very few, if any, errors.
- Powerful, precise vocabulary. Showing, not telling, in your commentary.
- Ideas are thoroughly developed extending concrete details rather than repeating them.
- Organization is logical and clear. No repetition.
- Conclusion paragraph makes insightful connections to thesis statement and adds personal insights.
- Evidence of clear author's voice
- Clear and compelling writing overall

B: Very Good (80-89%)

- Introduction provides substantial background and detail.
- Thesis sentence is clear and purposeful.
- Topic sentences have a clear subject and opinion, stemming from thesis.
- Concrete details are appropriate and logically placed in essay.
- Commentary is logical and develops the concrete details.
- Some mechanical errors.
- Good, purposeful vocabulary. appropriate, functional
- Most ideas are developed, with little or no repetition.
- Organization is mostly logical and clear.
- Conclusion paragraph connects to thesis.
- Evidence of author's voice
- Competent writing overall

C: Adequate (70-79%)

- Introduction provides some background and detail.
- Thesis sentence has a subject and an opinion, but may not be original, clear or purposeful.
- Topic sentences have a subject and an opinion, but connection to the thesis is unclear.
- Concrete details are not original, or are not formatted correctly within the body paragraph.
- Commentary lacks detail and/or is partially logical.
- Several mechanical errors.
- Average vocabulary. general, ordinary
- Some ideas are developed. Repetition is frequent throughout essay.
- Organization is not logical or clear.
- Conclusion paragraph makes little connection back to thesis sentence.
- Exhibits little author's voice
- Competent writing with some lapses

D: Demonstrates Problems (60-69%)

- Introduction provides little or no background or detail.
- Thesis sentence does not have a subject or an opinion, or there is no clear thesis.
- Topic sentences do not have a subject and opinion, and/or there is no connection to the thesis.
- Concrete details are not facts and/or they do not support topic sentences.
- Commentary is confused with concrete detail or is missing.
- Large number of mechanical errors makes essay hard to understand.
- Vocabulary is unsophisticated or inappropriate.
- Ideas are not developed or inappropriate support. Repetition is very frequent throughout essay.
- There is little or no organization and/or format is not followed consistently.
- Conclusion paragraph makes no connection at all to thesis sentence.
- Exhibits no author's voice

Name _____

Period: _____

Comments and Suggestions:

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