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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| **Claim**The claim (topic sentence) guides the reader to expect evidence. | Topic and purpose are clearly introduced with a topic sentence. | Introduces the topic clearly | Topic is less clearly stated, but can be inferred | Topic is not clear |
| **Evidence**Supports claim | Skillfully supports the topic sentence with precise * facts
* definitions
* concrete details
* quotations
* other information & examples
 | Relevant and sufficient:* facts
* definitions
* concrete details
* quotations
* other information & examples
 | Uses some facts and details, but needs more for clarity | Does not use relevant or sufficient facts or details |
| **Analysis**Connects evidence to claim through reasoning using writer’s own words | Skillfully connects all the evidence to the claim using thoughtful and/or advanced* transitions
* analogies
* comparisons
* evaluations
* connections
 | Transitions between sentencesConnects most evidence to claim and thesisPossible ways to analyze:* connect to broader topic or background
* compare to another piece of evidence
* make an analogy
* evaluate the evidence
* show connections between/among individuals, events, and ideas
 | Uses insufficient transitions Connects some evidence to thesis using analysis | Does not use transitionsAnalysis is unclear |
| Link/LeavingLast sentence of the paragraph; draws a conclusion | Leaving sentence follows from the ideas presented and conveys the importance or implication of the information | Leaving sentence follows from and supports the ideas presented, perhaps restating the claim in different words. | Leaving sentence does not fit the topic completely | Leaving sentence is unclear or missing |