Criteria Qualities required for scoring

	3	2	1

How effectively does the writing focus on a topic and anticipate the audience's background knowledge of the topic?

	3	2	1
Purpose and Audience	• Masterfully addresses the audience and purpose • Compelling topic informs readers • Skillful introduction that sets up the essay	• Writing is appropriate for audience and purpose • Interesting topic informs readers • Adequate introduction that sets up the essay	• Writing is ineffective for audience and purpose • Vague topic somewhat informs readers • Weak introduction that does not set up essay

How skillfully does the writing generate thoughtful ideas and support the topic?

	3	2	1
Support and Synthesis	• Skillful and logical idea progression • Skillful link to topic in each body paragraph • Skillful synthesis of information • Three of more excellent reasons are stated with good support	• Adequate idea progression • Clear link to topic in most body paragraphs • Adequate synthesis of information • Three of more reasons are stated but some arguments are weak	• Inadequate idea progression • Paragraphs are not linked to topic • Inadequate synthesis of information • Reasons are stated but with weak arguments

How easy is the writing to follow?

	3	2	1
Organization, Fluency and Style	• Purposeful transitions clarify the relationship between ideas • Skillfully fluent sentences enhance ideas	• Adequate transitions suggest the relationship between ideas • Mostly fluent sentences convey ideas	• Ineffective transition shows the relationship between some ideas • An accumulation of run on, choppy or incomplete sentences impedes clarity of ideas

How clear is the meaning of the writing?

	3	2	1
Grammar, Spelling	• Generally free of most errors	• Some errors	• Accumulation of errors

and Punctuation			

How effective and accurate is the word choice?

Vocabulary	• Skillful and accurate vocabulary and tone	• Appropriate vocabulary and tone	• Weak vocabulary and tone

How accurate is the style and formatting of the writing, and does the writer show academic integrity?

Resources and Presentation	• Mastery of academic integrity • Accurately credits work of others with complete citations • Appropriate style and formatting	• Attempt to master academic integrity • Mostly credits work of others with accurate citations • Mostly appropriate style and formatting	• Inconsistent mastery of academic integrity • Inconsistent credit for work of others with few citations • Inconsistent style and formatting