CRITERIA / SCALE	-3- Exceeds Expectations	-2- Meets Expectations	-1- Needs Improvement	-0- Inadequate
Structure • Organization • Flow of thought • Transitions • Format	• Paper is logically organized • Easily followed • Effective, smooth, and logical transitions • Professional format	• Paper has a clear organizational structure with some digressions, ambiguities or irrelevances • Easily followed • Basic transitions • Structured format	• There is some level of organization though digressions, ambiguities, irrelevances are too many • Difficult to follow • Ineffective transitions • Rambling format	• There is no apparent organization to the paper. • Difficult to follow • No or poor transitions • No format
Grammar/mechanics • sentence structure • punctuation/mechanics	• Manipulates complex sentences for effect/impact • No punctuation or mechanical errors	• Uses complex sentences • Few punctuation or mechanical errors	• Uses compound sentences • Too many punctuation and/or mechanical errors	• Uses simple sentences
Language • Vocabulary; use of vocabulary • Tone	• Vocabulary is sophisticated and correct as are sentences which vary in structure and length • Uses and manipulates subject specific vocabulary for effect • Writer's tone is clear, consistent and appropriate for intended audience	• Vocabulary is varied, specific and appropriate • Frequently uses subject specific vocabulary correctly • Writer's tone emerges and is generally appropriate to audience	• Vocabulary is used properly though sentences may be simple • Infrequently uses subject specific vocabulary correctly • Writer's tone exhibits some level of audience sensitivity	• Vocabulary is unsophisticated, not used properly in very simple sentences. • Uses subject specific vocabulary too sparingly
Content/information • Clarity of purpose • Critical and original thought • Use of examples	• Central idea is well developed and clarity of purpose is exhibited throughout the paper • Abundance of evidence of critical, careful thought and analysis and/or insight • Evidence and examples are vivid and specific, while focus remains tight	• Central idea and clarity of purpose are generally evident throughout the essay • Evidence of critical, careful thought and analysis and/or insight • There are good, relevant supporting examples and evidence	• The central idea is expressed though it may be vague or too broad; Some sense of purpose is maintained throughout the essay • Some evidence of critical, careful thought and analysis and/or insight • There are some examples and evidence, though general	• Central idea and clarity of purpose are absent or incompletely expressed and maintained • Little or no evidence of critical, careful thought or analysis and/or insight • There are too few, no examples and evidence or they are mostly irrelevant