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|--------------|---|--|--|--|---|--|
| Ideas | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The main idea is unclear. Supporting ideas are vague and not clearly connected to the main idea. Too short to demonstrate control of ideas. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main idea is too broad. Supporting ideas are listed as specific topics, but not further developed. Supporting ideas are not purposefully connected to the topic categories above. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some supporting ideas are specific. Main idea is too broad. No clear thesis statement. Writer has not narrowed the topic down to a manageable size or approach. Supporting ideas are too general. Supporting ideas are underdeveloped or vague. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes a clear main idea. Specific supporting idea. Includes well developed idea. Insightful supporting explanation. Supporting idea is too general. Supporting ideas need further development. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes a clear main idea. Each supporting idea is introduced. Each supporting idea is developed. Some insightful and descriptive details provided. The supporting idea would benefit from further description and development. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes a clear main idea. Contains several developed supporting ideas. Details are specific and appropriate for topic. Gives an interesting insight into the writer. |
| Organization | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No clear introduction. No clear conclusion. No organizational plan. Attempts to connect ideas with a few basic transitions. Too short to demonstrate control of organization. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes minimal introduction. Includes minimal conclusion. Attempts to describe an organizational plan. Few transitions used. Most ideas do not logically connect to each other. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conclusion offers a brief summary. Although few transitions are used, most sentences connect logically to each other. Introduction is vague and ineffective. It is unclear if there is an overall organizational plan. Each paragraph seems to develop a different aspect of the broad topic, although the approach is not clearly purposeful. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Narrative introduction leads to topic statement. Brief summary conclusion. Chronological strategy used for organization of ideas. Simple transitions keep the narrative moving in time. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction is brief but appropriate. Conclusion wraps up story and provides writer's next goal. Supporting sentences in the introduction are the topics of the paragraphs that follow. Some transitions are used to connect ideas. Most sentences and ideas logically build on each other. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective, concise introduction. Skillful conclusion wraps up the essay and provides a look into the future. Clear chronological organization: Story gains momentum and builds to a high point. Effective transitions connect ideas in time. Ideas within paragraphs connect logically to each other. |

Conventions

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Words are correctly capitalized. • Incorrect spelling of many basic words. • Missing punctuation creates run-on sentences. • Numerous grammar and usage errors. • Convention errors make understanding difficult. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sentences end in periods. • Many misspelled words. • One capitalization error. • Missing internal punctuation creates run-on sentence. • Misused and missing apostrophes. • Verbs are not parallel. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capitalization is mostly correct. • Sentences end in periods. • Some words misspelled. • Inconsistent internal punctuation. • Inconsistent apostrophe usage. Missing hyphens. • Verb errors. • Pronoun confusion. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beginning capitalization is correct. • Demonstrates control over basic but not complex conventions. • Minor spelling errors of more advanced words. • Unnecessary internal punctuation. • Missing hyphens. • Minor pronoun errors caused by approach to subject. • Incorrect verb usage. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal punctuation: commas after introductory words and phrases. • Grammar and usage mostly correct. • Demonstrates control over simple and complex conventions. • One repeated spelling error. • A few minor grammar errors: pronoun agreement, transitions. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Even advanced words spelled correctly. • No errors in capitalization. • Most punctuation is correct, even in complex constructions. • Complex grammatical constructions are handled well. • The verb tense switch at the end is skillfully controlled. • Demonstrates sophistication and skill using a wide range of conventions in a long and complex piece. |

Sentence Fluency

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only simple sentence transitions. • Sentences do not logically follow each other. • Too few sentences to demonstrate sentence variety. • Sentence is long and incorrectly constructed. • Sentence is confusing through incorrect and irregular word order. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simple sentences correctly constructed. • Sentence flow and logic is limited to listing and connecting ideas using “another”. • Repetition in sentence beginnings. • Longer sentences poorly constructed. • Non-parallel sentence constructions. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simple transitions but many sentences connect logically to each other. • Sentence beginnings are somewhat varied. • Simple sentences are correctly constructed. • Sentence flow is choppy due to repetitive sentence structure. • Sentence flow is choppy due to repetitive sentence length. • Includes a few awkward constructions. • Includes a run-on sentence. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good use of transitions. Sentences build logically onto each other. • Varied sentence beginnings, structures, and lengths. • Simple sentences are correctly constructed. • An occasional awkward construction due to impersonal approach to sentence subject. • Longer sentences correctly constructed but not sophisticated. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some purposeful connections between sentences. • Transitions keep the narrative moving ahead in time. Sentences build logically. • Good sentence variety: beginnings, structures, and lengths are varied throughout. • Sentence construction demonstrates control over both simple and longer, more sophisticated sentence constructions. • Minor awkward constructions. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skillful transitions support the narrative flow. • Varied beginnings, structures and lengths. Natural flow. • Purposeful use of repetitive structure to emphasize ideas and enhance meaning. • Sentence construction skillful and effective. • General: Demonstrates strong control over simple and longer, more sophisticated constructions. |

Word Choice

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vague and imprecise word choices.• Words are not appropriate to topic. They are simple and uninteresting, and use is repetitious.• General: Uses too few words to demonstrate skill. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vague words leave reader wondering: Good, how? Interesting, how?• Inappropriate, simple, and uninteresting word choices.• Correctness: Mistakes show that writer struggles with building a wider vocabulary. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Some attempts at using precise word choices.• Some subject-appropriate vocabulary.• Mostly vague and general word choices.• Some inappropriate uninteresting word choices. Some repetitiveness.• General: Shows inconsistent ability to choose appropriate and wide vocabulary. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Some precise choices to describe ideas and emotions.• Use of synonym enhances meaning of more general word.• Words are appropriate for approach to the topic.• Includes some vague word choices.• Includes much repetition.• Language seems a little overdone or forced. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Uses many precise word choices effective emotional vocabulary, and vivid and interesting word choices.• Uses a simile effectively.• Word choices are appropriate and functional. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Includes vivid, mature, precise word choices.• Contains vivid descriptions.• Words are appropriate to topic and interesting.• Repetition is used purposefully and effectively to stress focus on practice.• General: Writer demonstrates control over topic-appropriate, engaging vocabulary. |

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| Voice | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tone is flat. Words and ideas are general. • No commitment to topic: ideas are not explained. • No audience awareness: writing is confusing for reader. • No sense of the writer: writer does not explain why his/her topic is important to him/her. • General: Too short to establish the writer's voice. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gives some sense of writer; shares some emotions; tries to explain why the topic is important. • Tone is flat and uninteresting. Words are general. • Shows limited commitment to topic: idea is only briefly explained. Example is not elaborated on. • Shows limited audience awareness: does not explain the reasons for these statements. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some audience awareness: explains why setting topic is important and supports that explanation. • Gives some sense of the writer in humorous beginning and vivid images. • Inconsistent tone: humorous tone in introduction turns flat in remainder of essay. • Shows some commitment to topics by providing some explanation and specifics. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shows commitment to topic. Writer has thought about topic, explaining both the importance of goals and a roadmap to success. • Displays audience awareness by examining both sides of the issue. • Uneven tone: lofty academic tone does not sound authentic contrasted with enthusiastic conclusion. • Unclear sense of writer: use of pronoun "one" distances writer, but enthusiastic conclusion lets writer shine through. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Narrative tone is natural and appropriate. • Displays commitment to topics by explaining most events in detail. • Shows audience awareness by explaining unusual events to reader. • Conveys writer's personality by sharing feelings and using interesting descriptions and figurative language. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tone is appropriately sincere and engaging. • Shows strong commitment to topic by thorough discussion of events that lead up to achieving the goal. Special commitment is demonstrated by hinting at next steps. • Displays audience awareness by explaining events in detail. • Strong sense of writer through his/her descriptive and figurative language, and by sharing feeling and personal insight. |