

	Novice (1)	Apprentice (2)	Practitioner (3)	Expert (4)
Mechanics & Format	Writer makes 5 or more errors in spelling, grammar, punctuation, academic language, and MLA 8 format. Few paragraphs or number of sentences in each paragraph.	Writer makes 3 or 4 errors in spelling, grammar, punctuation, academic language, and MLA 8 format. Below average number of sentences in each paragraph.	Writer has 1 or 2 errors in spelling, grammar, punctuation, academic language, and MLA 8 format. Average number of paragraphs and number of sentences in each paragraph.	Writer has no errors in spelling, grammar, punctuation, academic language, and MLA 8 format. Above average number of sentences in each paragraph. Additional paragraphs enhance the piece and are not overly wordy.
Paragraph Development (includes sentence structure, word choice, fluency)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Thesis and restated thesis needed</li> <li>*Topic and supporting sentences</li> <li>*No transitions</li> <li>*Only simple sentences</li> <li>*Frequent run-ons and fragments</li> <li>*Needs descriptive words</li> <li>*No direct quotes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Either thesis or restated thesis needed.</li> <li>*Topic sentence are present</li> <li>*Simple supporting sentences that follow a logical order</li> <li>*Some transitions</li> <li>*Many run-ons and fragments</li> <li>*Mainly simple sentences; some compound sentences</li> <li>*Some run-ons and fragments</li> <li>*Needs more descriptive words</li> <li>*Only 1 direct quote</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Clear thesis or restated thesis.</li> <li>*Clear topic sentence</li> <li>*Introduces the main idea</li> <li>*Well-written supporting sentences that follow a logical order</li> <li>*Few run-ons and fragments</li> <li>*Some variation of sentence structure</li> <li>*Use of descriptive words</li> <li>*2 direct quotes</li> </ul>	Meets requirements of Practitioner and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Has an interesting topic sentence that gets the reader's attention.</li> <li>*Makes connections and gives new details or information</li> <li>*Varied sentence structure throughout</li> <li>*Evidence student used the thesaurus for word choice</li> <li>*More than 2 direct quotes to further enhance content</li> </ul>
Ideas and Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Writing is extremely limited in communicating knowledge</li> <li>*No central theme</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Writing does not clearly communicate knowledge of the topic</li> <li>*Includes limited information on topic.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Writing is purposeful and focused.</li> <li>*Demonstrates understanding of the topic</li> <li>*Piece is detailed</li> </ul>	Meets all requirements of Practitioner and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Writing is confident and clearly focused</li> <li>*Uses precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform or explain the topic.</li> <li>*Links ideas within categories of information using words, phrases, and clauses.</li> </ul>