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| **CATEGORY** | **4** | **3** | **2** | **1** | **0** |
| **Introduction**Topic SentenceThesis Statement(Organization) | A strong topic sentence frames the paragraph. Structure is formal and grammatically correct.Two precise character traits are clearly previewed in the thesis statement. | Topic sentence effectively frames the paragraph. Two character traits are previewed in the thesis statement. | Topic sentence does not frame the paragraph well. The character traits may not be clearly stated in thesis statement. | Topic sentence is weak. Character traits not given. | No introduction paragraph. |
| **Sequencing** (Organization) | Details are placed in a logical order (topic sentence, text evidence, commentary) and the way they are presented effectively keeps the interest of the reader.  | Details are placed in a logical order which **helps** the reader understand the main idea of the paragraph. | Some details are not in a logical or expected order, and this distracts the reader. | Many details are not in a logical or expected order. There is little sense that the writing is organized. | No evidence of organization of ideas. |
| **Support for Topic**  (Content)**Text evidence** | Two specific and relevant pieces of text evidence support the topic sentence and give the reader important information that goes beyond the obvious or predictable.  | Two relevant pieces of text evidence support the topic sentence and give the reader important information. Details follow the topic sentence. | One piece of text evidence is clearly presented. | One piece of text evidence is presented but is weak or incorrect. | No text evidence is presented. |
| **Support for Topic**(Content)**Commentary** | Commentary explains how the text evidence supports the topic sentence, showing effective analysis and moving to synthesis. | Commentary explains how the text evidence supports the topic sentence showing effective analysis. | Commentary is missing for some text evidence and/or is underdeveloped. | Commentary is irrelevant. It does not explain how the text evidence supports the thesis. | No commentary is given. |
| **Conclusion**(Organization) | Conclusion effectively synthesizes the information presented in the body paragraph and leaves the reader satisfied.  | Conclusion pulls all of the details together signaling the end of the paper and leaving the reader satisfied. | Conclusion signals the end of the paper but pulls together only some of the details.  | An incomplete and undeveloped conclusion is given.  | No conclusion paragraph is given. |
| **MLA**(credibility) | Correct in-text citations are provided for each piece of text evidence. | In-text citations are provided for each piece of text evidence. | A clear in-text citation is provided for one piece of text evidence. | An in-text citation is provided for one piece of text evidence. | No in-text citations are provided. |