**Writing Rubric**

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|  | **Excellent** (8-10 points) | **Adequate**  (5-7 points) | **Needs Improvement**  (0-4 points) | **Points Earned** |
| Unity | ⮚ There is a clear thesis statement with a strong signal term. It contains a preview of the main points. ⮚ Everything in each paragraph supports the topic sentence. | ⮚ There is a thesis statement, but it is lacking a signal term and/or a preview.  ⮚ Some sentences are not closely related to the topic sentence. | ⮚ There is no clear thesis statement or preview.  ⮚ Information included is random and does not seem to support the main idea. |  |
| **Support** | ⮚ The main ideas are supported with specific one-time evidence.  ⮚ Details are vivid and descriptive. | ⮚The main ideas are supported with some generalities.  ⮚ The details could be more vivid. | ⮚ The examples are too general to support the main idea.  ⮚ There are not enough details to paint a clear picture. |  |
| **Organization** | ⮚ Paragraphs and sentences are in a logical order.  ⮚ Transitions clearly show how points fit together.  ⮚ The essay flows smoothly. | ⮚ Ideas are grouped together, but sometimes transitions are missing.  ⮚ The essay feels a little choppy or disorganized. | ⮚ The writing is hard to follow because it is lacking transitions.  ⮚ There does not seem to be any reason for the way ideas have been organized. |  |
| **Style** | ⮚ There are a variety of sentence structures.  ⮚ Word choice is precise and appropriate.  ⮚ The essay is written in Standard American English. | ⮚ There is not a lot of sentence variety, but the writing is still clear and understandable.  ⮚ Sometimes word choice is inaccurate.  ⮚ There are some problems with sentence fluency. | ⮚ The style is not appropriate for the topic or the audience. ⮚ Frequent simple sentences make the paragraph a little choppy.  ⮚ The lack of sentence fluency distracts the reader. |  |
| **Mechanics** | ⮚ Only a few minor spelling, grammar or punctuation mistakes are made.  ⮚ The author did everything possible to write an error-free paper. | ⮚ There are some spelling, grammar or punctuation mistakes, but the ideas are still understandable.  ⮚ This paper clearly would benefit from careful editing. | ⮚ The frequent spelling, grammar, and/or punctuation mistakes interfere with the reader’s understanding of the paragraph. |  |
| **Comments:** |  |  | **Total Points Earned** | **/50** |