

Name of Writer

Name of reader

	A	B	C	NP
Introduction to topic	Presents a clear, welcoming (or intriguing), and relevant introduction to issues and themes.	Introduction adequately engages reader and introduces topic. Perhaps the prose is more sterile and functional than engaging.	The introduction is missing key components, establishing only a soft connection to the reader and offering only a vague sense of the overall project.	Introduction is missing key elements and/or resorts to clichés. No sense of the audience or engagement with the reader.
Thesis	Thesis sentence/sentences clearly expresses a major idea, the major terms of the idea (the major evidence/reason for this argument), and a qualifying statement about other possible positions on the idea.	Thesis sentence/sentences expresses a major idea, but does not adequately clarify the major terms of the argument or the implications.	Some vagueness in the conception and expression of the thesis statement. The idea is too general or underdeveloped. Or, there are too many components of the thesis.	The thesis cannot be discerned.
Analytical Depth	Paper draws not only analyzes the issue but also considers with the implications of the analysis.	Analysis and implications of analysis are sharp in general, but there are some moments when they are less clear.	There is analysis but no consideration of its implications.	Paper just summarizes
Organization and execution of argument	Demonstrates organization within paragraphs and within the overall document that significantly enhances the content, helping to clarify the message. Argument shows a clear and logical development throughout the body of the paper.	Occasional issues with organization and structure of the argument, but overall, still pretty strong.	Demonstrates organization within paragraphs and within the overall document that adequately supports the content; revised organization could strengthen the message.	Major issues with organization and argumentation.
Quotations	Quotations are relevant and well executed. They include accurate in-text citations (per MLA guidelines).	Some irregularities with quotation staging and/or questions about the relevance of some quotations, but still strong and accurate citations.	Significant irregularities with quotation staging, missing quotations, and/or major questions about the relevance of some quotations. Quotations not adequately introduced. Inaccuracies with citations.	Major problems with all aspects of quotations.
Topic Sentences/Transitions	Topic sentences introduce new ideas (or a new element to a previous idea that requires fleshing out) and expresses (either literally or implicitly) a logical connection with the paragraphs that precede and follow it.	Topic sentences and transitions are generally strong, but their clarity and/or connections to other paragraphs occasionally falter.	Significant irregularities with topic sentences and transitions. Some paragraphs do not reflect the organizing topic sentence. Some topic sentences are missing.	Significant concerns about topic sentences. Instructor meeting is advisable.
Professionalism (spacing, punctuation, page numbers, title, indentations, tone)	The paper contains few (if any) mechanical issues. Paper has correct and regular spacing, page numbers, a relevant title that hints at the paper's topic, is properly indented at paragraphs, and uses a confident and professional tone (like one might see in the NY TIMES).	The paper contains some mechanical issues. Paper has correct and regular spacing, page numbers, a relevant title that hints at the paper's topic, is properly indented at paragraphs, and uses a confident and professional tone (like one might see in the NY TIMES).	There are significant mechanical issues and the paper has problems with one or more of the following: spacing, page #, title, indentations, informal tone.	There are significant mechanical issues and the paper has problems with many of the following: spacing, page #, title, indentations, informal tone.
MLA Works Cited				

Strengths:

Weaknesses: