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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 4 (Exceeds Expectations) |  |  |  |
| Introduction | * Concise background information * Main points are clearly and concisely illustrated and all relate to the thesis * The thesis statement clearly defines the topic of the essay. |  |  |  |
| Body Paragraphs | * Topic sentence limits the paragraph to one idea that supports the thesis. * Three or more specific examples that are well explained, directly relevant to your argument and related to the topic sentence. * Smooth transitions are included between all paragraphs. |  |  |  |
| Conclusion | Clearly and succinctly reviews the main points of the essay. Leaves the reader with a solid understanding of the writers’ position. |  |  |  |
| Conventions | Author makes virtually no errors in grammar, spelling, or punctuation that would distract from the content. |  |  |  |

\*\* Discussion points:

1. Where does fluidity fall?
2. How much to weight each category? Are each body paragraph graded individually?