

Five-Paragraph Essay Writing Rubric

Criteria	4	3	2	1	Points
Introductory Paragraph	Topic idea sentence is clear, correctly placed, and restated in the closing sentence. Your three supporting ideas are briefly mentioned.	Topic idea sentence is either unclear or incorrectly placed, and it's restated in the closing sentence. Your three supporting ideas are briefly mentioned.	Topic idea sentence is unclear and incorrectly placed. It's restated in the closing sentence. One of your supporting ideas is briefly mentioned.	Topic idea sentence is unclear and incorrectly placed, and it's not restated in the closing sentence. Your supporting ideas are not mentioned.	
Supporting Detail Paragraphs 2, 3, and 4	Each paragraph has a topic sentence and three or more supporting detail sentences that relate back to the main idea. Specific examples are given.	Each paragraph has a topic sentence and two supporting detail sentences that relate back to the main idea. Specific examples are given.	Each paragraph has a topic sentence and one or two supporting detail sentences that relate back to the main idea. No specific examples are given.	Paragraphs have no supporting detail sentences that relate back to the main idea. Topic sentences are unclear. No examples are given.	
Grammar	There are no grammar errors; articles, verb tenses, and subject/verb agreements are correct; contractions and idioms are used when appropriate.	There are some grammar errors. There are problems with articles, verb tenses, subject/verb agreements, and contractions and idioms usage.	There are multiple grammar errors. There are problems with articles, verb tenses, subject/verb agreements, and contractions and idioms usage.	There are major/numerous grammar errors. There are problems with articles, verb tenses, subject/verb agreements, and contractions and idioms usage.	
Spelling	You have 0-1 spelling errors.	You have 2-3 spelling errors.	You have 4-5 errors.	Your spelling errors are numerous and distract the reader from your message.	
Vocabulary (word choice)	Vocabulary/word choice is impressive. You use some of the target vocabulary from the theme.	Vocabulary/word choice is impressive. All words are used appropriately.	Vocabulary/word choice is adequate, but it could be improved. More adjectives, adverbs, and descriptive words are needed.	Vocabulary/word choice is clearly limited, affecting written communication. Some words are used inappropriately.	
TOTAL	20 Points Possible				