

Teacher Name: _____

Student Name: _____

CATEGORY	4	3	2	1
Introduction (Organization)	The introduction grabs the reader's attention, provides necessary background information and hints at the significance of the experience.	The introduction somewhat grabs the reader's attention, provides necessary background information and hints at the significance of the experience.	The introduction does not get the reader's attention and provides some background information and hints at the significance of the experience.	There is no clear introduction of the essay topic or structure of the paper.
Sequencing (Organization)	Details are placed in a logical order and the way they are presented effectively keeps the interest of the reader.	Details are placed in a logical order, but the way in which they are presented/introduced sometimes makes the writing less interesting.	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.
Transitions (Organization)	A variety of thoughtful transitions are used. They clearly show how ideas or events are connected.	Transitions clearly show how ideas or events are connected, but there is little variety.	Some transitions work well; but connections between other ideas or events are fuzzy.	The transitions between ideas or events are unclear or nonexistent.
Pacing (Organization)	The pacing is well-controlled. The writer knows when to slow down and elaborate, and when to pick up the pace and move on.	The pacing is generally well-controlled but the writer occasionally does not elaborate enough.	The pacing is generally well-controlled but the writer sometimes repeats the same point over and over, or spends too much time on details that don't matter.	The pacing often feels awkward to the reader. The writer elaborates when there is little need, and then leaves out necessary supporting information.
Word Choice	Writer uses vivid words and phrases that linger or draw pictures in the reader's mind, and the choice and placement of the words seems accurate, natural and not forced.	Writer uses vivid words and phrases that linger or draw pictures in the reader's mind, but occasionally the words are used inaccurately or seem overdone.	Writer uses words that communicate clearly, but the writing lacks variety, punch or flair.	Writer uses a limited vocabulary that does not communicate strongly or capture the reader's interest. Jargon or clichés may be present and detract from the meaning.
Sentence Structure (Sentence Fluency)	All sentences are well-constructed with varied structure.	Most sentences are well-constructed with varied structure.	Most sentences are well-constructed but have a similar structure.	Sentences lack structure and appear incomplete or rambling.
Grammar & Spelling (Conventions)	Writer makes no errors in grammar or spelling that distracts the reader from the content.	Writer makes 1-2 errors in grammar or spelling that distracts the reader from the content.	Writer makes 3-4 errors in grammar or spelling that distracts the reader from the content.	Writer makes more than 4 errors in grammar or spelling that distracts the reader from the content.