

		Advanced (Exceeds) 4	Proficient (Meets) 3	Partially Proficient (Approaching) 2	Unsatisfactory (Does Not Meet) 1
Organizing Skills	Orientation/ Opening	Opening draws in the audience creating immediate engagement. Opening sets a clear tone and establishes a strong focus for the rest of the piece.	Opening is clear and engages the audience. Opening establishes a focus for the rest of the piece.	Opening is present, but may not engage the audience. Opening may not connect to the rest of the piece or may not focus the audience's attention.	Opening may be un-engaging or missing. Opening is distracting or does not connect to the rest of the piece.
	Development of Ideas	Synthesizes evidence from a variety of sources (including personal) to convey the significance of an experience as it relates to personal growth, academic growth, and/or academic findings. A variety of elaboration techniques are used to develop evidence, to advance the claim, and to capture and maintain the audience's attention.	Uses relevant evidence (including personal) to convey the connection of an experience to personal growth, academic growth, and/or academic findings. Specific techniques are used to elaborate upon evidence that connects to the claim and to capture the audience's attention.	Evidence is limited; piece does not clearly articulate how an experience led to personal growth, academic growth, and/or academic findings. Few techniques are used to elaborate on evidence, or the techniques used distract from the claim and cause the audience to lose focus.	Does not articulate the experiences; little evidence presented. Evidence provided is simply stated; the use of elaboration techniques is not evident.
	Development of Internal Structure	Organizational structure moves the audience from one key idea to the next; transitional phrases are subtle but control the flow of ideas. Artfully incorporates digital media to extend the audience's understanding and ensure engagement; digital media is smoothly integrated within the piece as a whole.	Organizational structure is clear and logical; transitional phrases smoothly connect ideas. Incorporates digital media to enhance the audience's understanding; digital media is included in the piece in a logical way.	Unclear or illogical structures disrupt the flow of ideas; transitions are simplistic Incorporates digital media but it repeats information presented and does not enhance the audience's understanding; digital media seems separate from the rest of the piece.	Organizational structure is not evident; transitions are missing at key points. Does not use digital media, or the use of digital media detracts from the piece as a whole.
	Closure	Final thought leaves the audience inspired.	Final thought leaves the audience with a sense of completion.	Final thought is present but is incomplete or disconnected.	Final thought is missing, and the piece ends abruptly.
Composing Skills	Word Choice and Tone	Words are precise and advance the claim; domain-specific language is incorporated in a way that demonstrates deep understanding of the subject. Language conveys the writer's voice, enthusiasm, and sincerity; words and phrases indicate when remarks are of a reflective and personal nature.	Words are correct and precise; domain-specific language is used correctly. Language conveys the writer's voice and sincerity; key words are used to indicate when remarks are of a reflective and personal nature.	Words are occasionally vague or redundant; domain-specific language is used incorrectly or inconsistently. Language does not convey the writer's voice or may seem insincere; reflective comments are lost within the piece as a whole.	Words are frequently incorrect; lack of precision in language leads to audience confusion. Language is generally flat; language lacks a reflective tone and is inappropriate for the context of the piece.
	Sentence Fluency/ Syntax	Sentences are structured deliberately to impact the sound and rhythm of language and to articulate and emphasize ideas.	Sentences are structured in a variety of ways and create a fluid reading experience; sentence structures generally support the presentation of ideas.	Sentence structures are redundant or lack fluidity. At times, sentence structures hinder the presentation of ideas.	Sentence structures significantly impede the presentation of ideas.
Conventions	Conventions	Errors, if present, are minimal and do not distract the audience; little or no editing needed. Deviations from standard conventions are employed for stylistic purpose(s).	Errors do not impede communication and rarely distract the audience; minimal editing needed. Deviations from standard conventions, if present, are employed for stylistic purpose(s).	Errors impede communication in some portions of the response; editing needed.	Errors severely impede communication; considerable editing is needed.