

MEL Paragraph Rubric

NAME:

Main Idea	5	4	3	2	1
	Writer has focused on one issue related to the assignment. Topic sentence is clear and well stated.		Focus is somewhat vague; topic sentence could be worded better, but there is a topic sentence		Focus is unclear; what are you trying to prove here? Topic sentence is not evident.
Evidence	15	12	9	6	3
	Ample evidence is given to support topic statement. Examples are specific and explained in detail.		Evidence is somewhat vague and not specific enough or evidence is not closely related to the subject.		Evidence is basically opinion, no specific evidence described or evidence described is unrelated.
Link	15	12	9	6	3
	Paragraph contains a statement after each piece of evidence that clearly links information to the topic sentence, explains how the evidence fits		Statement after each piece of evidence is related to the information in the topic sentence but not clearly linked.		Links are missing throughout the paragraph, only evidence; no real explanation of how the evidence supports main idea
Language	8	6	4	3	1
	Writer uses appropriate vocabulary, phrasing, etc. throughout the paragraph including applicable terms		Writer uses decent language, wording, phrasing; some appropriate terminology		Writer uses very simple language; basic phrasing or wording; some misused terms or no technical terms at all
Grammar & Spelling	5	4	3	2	1
	Paragraph is basically mistake free; spelling and grammar errors do not distract from understanding		Paragraph contains some errors in punctuation, grammar, spelling which slightly distract the reader		Paragraph is a mess; the errors in punctuation, grammar, and spelling are distracting and make the paragraph difficult to understand
Transitions	7	5	4	3	2
	Writer uses clear and sensible transitions between each piece of evidence.		Writer uses some good transitions although they are somewhat typical.		Writer does not use clear transitions; paragraph is disorganized as a result, hard to follow
Concluding Statement	5	4	3	2	1
	Writer uses a final statement that "wraps up" the paragraph, refers back to the main idea		Writer uses a concluding statement that sort of wraps up the paragraph; could be stronger, but okay		Writer fails to conclude the paragraph with a final statement to "wrap it up"

Total Points:

- 54-60=A
- 48-53=B
- 42-47=C
- 36-41=D