Criterion	4 – Advanced	3– Proficient	2 – Partial	1 – Minimal
	(Exceeds Standards)	(Meets Standards)	(Approaching Standards)	(Below Standards)
Focus CCSS -W: > 2a > 4	 Insightfully addresses all aspects of the prompt Introduces topic(s) in a sophisticated thesis statement 	 Competently addresses all aspects of the prompt Introduces topic(s) in a clear thesis statement 	 Partially addresses all aspects of the prompt Introduces superficial or flawed topic(s) in a weak thesis statement 	 Minimally addresses all aspects of the prompt Fails to introduces a relevant topic(s) and/or lacks a thesis statement
Organization /Structure CCSS-W: > 2a > 2c > 2f > 4	 Skillfully orients reader to topic(s) in introduction Thoroughly develops complex topic(s) with relevant body paragraphs Provides a meaningful and reflective conclusion that follows from and supports information or explanation presented, articulating significance of the topic Creates cohesion and clarifies relationships through skillful use of transition/linking words, phrases, and clauses within or between paragraphs and sections If required, purposefully and logically uses a variety of techniques (ex. headings, charts) to organize ideas, concepts, and information to aid comprehension 	 Orients reader to topic(s) in introduction Develops topic(s) with relevant body paragraphs Provides a conclusion that follows from and supports information or explanation presented, articulating significance of the topic Creates cohesion and clarifies relationships through transition/linking words, phrases, and clauses within or between paragraphs and sections If required, uses a variety of techniques (ex. headings, charts) to organize ideas, concepts, and information to aid comprehension 	Partially orients reader to topic(s) in introduction Partially develops topic(s) with minimal body paragraphs Provides a weak conclusion that fails to articulate the significance of the topic. Uses limited or inappropriate transition/linking words, phrases, and clauses If required, uses few techniques (ex. headings, charts) which inadequately organizes ideas, concepts, and information	Fails to orient reader to topic(s) in introduction or introduction is missing Fails to develop topic(s) with body paragraphs Provides an inadequate conclusion or omits conclusion Uses few to no transition/linking words, phrases, or clauses Includes little or no discernible organization of ideas
Develoment CCSS -W: > 2 > 2b > 9	 Skillfully develops the topic using well-chosen facts, definitions, concrete details, quotes, and other information and examples that are pertinent and substantial Effectively integrates and cites credible sources if applicable Shows insightful understanding of topic or text 	 Provides sufficient and relevant evidence to develop the topic appropriate to audience Competently integrates and cites credible sources if applicable Shows competent understanding of topic or text 	Provides limited and/or irrelevant evidence to develop the topic appropriate to audience Ineffectively integrates or cites sources if applicable Shows limited or flawed understanding of topic or text	 Provides inaccurate, little, or no evidence to support topic Does not use or cite sources if applicable Shows no and/or inaccurate understanding of topic or text
Language CCSS − L: > 1 > 2 > 2e > 3 > 4 CCSS-W > 4	Uses purposeful and varied sentence structure Contains minimal to no errors in conventions (grammar, punctuation, spelling, capitalization) Strategically uses academic and domain-specific vocabulary clearly appropriate for the audience and purpose	 Uses correct and varied sentence structure Contains few, minor errors in conventions Competently uses academic and domain-specific vocabulary clearly appropriate for the audience and purpose 	Uses limited and/or repetitive sentence structure Contains some errors in conventions which cause confusion Limited use of academic and domain-specific vocabulary clearly appropriate for the audience and purpose	Lacks sentence mastery (ex. fragments/run-ons) Contains serious and pervasive errors in conventions Fails to use academic and domain-specific vocabulary clearly appropriate for the audience and purpose