

INTRODUCTION – GRADING RUBRIC

Name _____

TRAIT	20	15	10	5
ENGAGING LEAD	Lead is original, engaging, and well-suited to the purpose.	Lead is clear and purposeful.	Lead is somewhat predictable and somewhat related to the topic.	Lead is predictable or unclear.
BACKGROUND	Background provides a clear and compelling explanation of the essay's purpose and/or the significance of the topic.	Focus is consistently on topic, but details are not clearly connected to the rest of the paragraph or are better suited to a body paragraph (too specific).	Background describes the issue somewhat, but adds little new information about its significance.	Vague or unclear explanation of the essay's purpose or significance of the topic.
THESIS STATEMENT	Clearly identifies the central idea and key points that will be addressed.	Clearly identifies the central idea and at least one key point.	Identifies the topic of the essay and makes a general or vague reference to the central idea.	The topic is identified, but the central idea related to that topic is unclear.
WORD CHOICE AND TONE	Sophisticated word choice conveys ideas with precision and establishes the tone of the essay.	Word choice is adequate for the purpose and helps set the tone of the essay.	Word choices are generally simple. Tone is consistent and appropriate for the task.	Word choices are simple and somewhat vague. Tone is inconsistent or inappropriate.
CONVENTIONS	Writing is neat and easy to read. There are few, if any, errors in spelling, grammar, punctuation, and capitalization.	Writing is neat and legible. There are few, if any, errors in basic spelling, grammar, punctuation, and capitalization.	Writing is legible. Frequent errors in basic spelling, grammar, punctuation and capitalization do not obscure meaning.	Writing is usually legible. Errors in basic conventions sometimes obscure meaning.

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