**Student:**

**Paper:**

**Final Score:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Criteria | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| The Claim | I make a claim and explain why it is controversial. | I make a claim but don't explain why it is controversial. | My claim is buried, confused and/or unclear. | I don't say what my argument or claim is. |
| Reasons to Support the Claim | I make strong arguments to support my character’s stance and support those with relevant facts. I also discuss arguments against my stance and refute them. | I make strong arguments to support my character’s stance and support those with relevant facts. | I make arguments to support my character’s stance and list some related facts. However, my case is not particularly strong. | I do not give any evidence to support my character’s stance.  |
| Voice and Tone | It sounds like I care about my argument. I show how I think and feel about it. | My tone is OK but my paper could have been written by anyone. I need to tell more about how I think and feel. | My writing is bland or pretentious. There is either no hint of a real person in it or it sounds like I'm a too fake. | My writing is too formal or too informal. It sounds like I don't like the topic of the essay. |
| Accuracy | My historical statements and facts are very accurate.  | There are occasional mistakes in my historical statements. | There are many historical inaccuracies. | There are enough mistakes that this paper is misleading. |
| Organization | My writing has a compelling opening, an informative middle and a satisfying conclusion. | My writing has a beginning, middle and end. It marches along but doesn't dance. | My writing is organized but sometimes gets off topic. | My writing is aimless and disorganized. |
| Word choice | The words I use are striking but natural, varied and vivid. | I make routine word choices. | The words I use are often dull or uninspired or sound like I am trying too hard to impress. | I use the same words over and over and over and over. Some words may be confusing to a reader. |
| Sentence fluency | My sentences are clear, complete, and of varying lengths. | I have well-constructed sentences. | My sentences are sometimes awkward, and/or contain run-ons and fragments. | Many run-ons, fragments and awkward phrasings make my essay hard to read. |
| Conventions | I use correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation. | I generally use correct conventions. I have a couple of errors I should fix. | I have enough errors in my essay to distract a reader. | Numerous errors make my paper hard to read. |
| TOTAL |  |  |  |  |