**Criteria for Evaluating Paragraphs**

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| **Point Value**  | **2 points**  | **1 points**  | **.5 points**  | **0 points**  |
| **Topic Sentence**  | Interesting, original topic sentence reflecting thought and insight; focused on one interesting main idea. | Clearly stated topic sentence; presents one main idea.  | Acceptable topic sentence; presents one idea.  | Missing, invalid, or inappropriate topic sentence; main idea is missing.  |
| **Supporting Details**  | Interesting, concrete, and descriptive examples; details with explanations that relate to the topic.  | Examples and details relate to the topic; some explanation is included.  | Sufficient number of examples and details that relate to the topic. | Insufficient, vague, or undeveloped examples.  |
| **Organization and Transitions** | Thoughtful, logical progression of supporting examples; mature transitions between ideas. | Details show a logical progression; appropriate transitions. | Acceptable arrangement of examples; transitions may be weak. | No discernible pattern of organization; unrelated details; no transitions. |
| **Conclusion** | Conclusion builds onto the topic sentence/ restates the idea. It gives a suggestion, some advice/ opinion. | Concluding sentence only repeats the topic sentence. | No logical concluding sentence. | No concluding sentence. |
| **Style**  | Appropriate tone, distinctive voice; pleasing variety in sentence structures; vivid diction, precise word choice. | Appropriate tone; clear sentences with varied structures; effective diction and word choice. | Acceptable tone; some variety in sentence structures; adequate diction and word choice. | Inconsistent or inappropriate tone; awkward, unclear, or incomplete sentences; bland diction, poor word choice. |
| **Mechanics**  | Consistent Standard English in spelling and punctuation; no grammatical errors. | Some (1-2) mistakes in grammar, spelling, or punctuation. | A few (3-4) mistakes in grammar, spelling, or punctuation. | Distracting grammatical errors; spelling or punctuation mistakes. |

**Grade Equivalent:**

A = 11 - 12 points B = 9 -10 points C = 7 - 8 points D = 5 - 6 points