

Communicate clearly and effectively

Criteria	Proficient	Developing	Beginning
focus (topic sentence or controlling idea)	Establishes a clear focus	Establishes a focus	Does not establish a focus
organization	Organizes content throughout	Demonstrates inconsistent organization	Lacks organization
support & evidence	Provides comprehensive and accurate support and evidence	Provides limited support and/or insufficient evidence	Provides inaccurate or irrelevant support or evidence
written expression ⁷	Contains no significant errors in mechanics ⁸ or usage ⁹	Contains significant errors in mechanics or usage	Contains extensive errors in mechanics or usage
oral expression ¹⁰	Delivery is poised, clear, and confident throughout	Delivery is flat or ill-prepared	Delivery is not engaging and lacks preparation

⁷ Written expression only addresses mechanics and usage

⁸ Mechanics i.e. spelling, punctuation, capitalization, paragraph structure

⁹ Usage i.e. word choice, subject-verb agreement

¹⁰ Teacher may choose to eliminate either the written expression or oral expression criteria (but not both)