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| **Scoring Elements** | **Proficient 4** | **Emerging 3** | **Beginning 2** |
| **Topic Sentence** | Engaging and concise sentence that introduces the topic of the paragraph and includes an original opinion. | Adequate topic sentence that introduces the topic of the paragraph and includes an opinion. | Topic sentence is unclear and doesn’t include an opinion |
| **Concrete Detail** | Sentence is factual, specific and relevant. Details strongly support topic sentence. | Sentence is factual but barely relevant to topic sentence. Some details support topic sentence. | Paragraph is missing concrete details or CD does not support the topic sentence |
| **Commentary** | There are two sentences of insightful analysis/commentary provided for each concrete detail. This commentary directly supports the topic sentence | There are fewer than 2 sentences of commentary provided for each concrete detail. This commentary directly supports the topic sentence | Paragraph is missing commentary or the commentary does not support the topic sentence.  |
| **Conclusion/Transition** | Concluding sentence pulls the ideas to a close and if applicable transitions reader to next paragraph | The paragraph has a closing sentence that strays from the main idea | Paragraph is missing commentary or the commentary does not support the topic sentence.  |
| **Mechanics** | Legibly handwritten or typed with no distracting grammatical errors. | Legibly written, easy to read with 1-2 distracting grammatical errors. | Several distracting errors that make the paragraph difficult to read |

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