Focus and Organization

1. Your opening presents your topic.
2. You stay on that topic. (Present things that are relevant to that topic.)
3. Your readers can follow you without getting lost. (Transitions keep you organized)
4. Closing ties all ideas together. (Summarizes the main idea) (Concluding statement)

Development

1. Well- constructed paragraphs
2. Provide facts, ideas, and concepts that clearly support the topic
3. Explains and elaborates (Go into details, not just stating the fact, idea, or concept)

Language

1. Grade-level vocabulary
2. Paraphrase (don’t copy word for word unless you place in quotation marks-make sure you do very few quotes)
3. Variety of sentences (simple, complex, and compound)
4. Effective use of specific words for example: The Mayas built huge pyramids that **rivaled** Egypt’s instead of The Mayas’ pyramids were **bigger** than Egypt’s.

Conventions

1. Grammar (Subject/verb must agree, correct adjectives, etc.)
2. Spelling that takes away the meaning from the text
3. Capitalization
4. Punctuation (end, apostrophes, colons, semi-colons