Essay Scoring Guide

Topic/Prompt = __What Impact did the Railroad have on your County?__

	No Credit (0)	Below Basic (1)	Basic (2)	Proficient (3)	Advanced (4)	Score
Organization	___ Introduction is missing ___ Transitions are missing or don't make sense ___ There is no conclusion, or it is not about the topic	___ Introduction of topic is unclear or incomplete ___ Some transitions are used, but they don't connect ideas ___ Conclusion is not about the topic or is not a paragraph	___ Introduction of topic is clear and fits part of task or purpose ___ Transitions connect most body paragraphs and ideas; some missing or repeated ___ Conclusion paragraph restates the topic	___ Introduction of topic has a plan and clearly fits the task and purpose ___ Transitions connect body paragraphs and ideas in an order that mostly follow a plan ___ Conclusion paragraph connects back to the topic	___Introduction has a plan and presents topic in an interesting way that clearly fits the task and purpose; may include a lead ___Different transitions are used to connect body paragraphs and ideas in an order that follows a plan ___Strong conclusion paragraph connects back to the topic in an interesting way	
Ideas/Content	___ Ideas are missing, unclear, or off-topic ___ Details and facts missing, not correct, or repeated ___ Reader will not learn anything about the topic	___ The ideas don't fit the topic ___ Body paragraphs may have few details and facts or they are incorrect or don't fit the topic ___ Reader may be confused or will not have correct information about the topic	___ Some ideas fit the topic ___ Body paragraphs have some details and facts about the topic ___ Reader has some information but needs more to understand the topic	___The ideas fit the topic and task or answer the prompt ___ Each body paragraph includes important details and facts ___Reader will understand the topic	___The ideas fit the topic and task and answer the prompt completely ___Each body paragraph has many interesting and important details and facts ___Reader will understand the topic in detail	
Language	___ Sentences are not complete; do not make sense ___ Many words are repeated or not used correctly	___ Many sentences are not complete, making it difficult for reader to follow ___ Some words are repeated or not used correctly	___ Sentences are mostly complete, but with little variety ___ Words are used correctly and fit the topic	___ Sentences are complete and have some variety ___ Includes some action verbs, precise words, or content vocabulary	___ Sentences are a variety of simple, compound, and complex ___ Many action verbs, precise words, content vocabulary, and descriptions are used	
Conventions	___ Because of mistakes in conventions, the reader can't understand the writing ___ Doesn't look like paragraphs	___ Many mistakes in conventions make it hard for reader to understand writing ___Attempts to write in paragraph format	___Several mistakes in conventions, but the reader can understand writing ___ Clear effort to write in paragraph format	___ A few mistakes in conventions that don't stop the reader from understanding writing ___Writes neat, indented paragraphs	___ Very few or no mistakes in conventions ___ Clearly writes in essay/report format	
Conventions = Capitalization, Punctuation and Spelling					Total Score (16 possible)	

.