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|  | **Exemplary****MEL-Con Paragraph Grading Rubric**Student’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | **Proficient** | **Emerging** | **Not Yet** |
| Main Idea/ Topic Sentence Score: \_\_\_\_\_ | Topic sentence clearly and accurately states the topic along with a direct and concise argument or claim.  | Topic sentence states the main idea and makes a claim **BUT** may be wordy or somewhat unclear. | Topic sentence does not make a clear and concise claim, **but** may summarize the topic and provide a general frame for discussion.Statements that begin with “yes” or “no” do not demonstrate sophisticated or proficient main idea statements. | Topic sentence does not respond to the question or prompt and does not make a direct claim or argument.**OR**No topic sentence is presentTopic sentences should not include evidence.  |
| Evidence/ ExamplesScore: \_\_\_\_\_ | Evidence includes source of information observed or measured (quotes, examples, statistics, etc.) and is explained/ paraphrased and cited according to MLA guidelines.Evidence strongly proves the main claim; does not support opposing views.All three pieces of evidence are present. | Evidence includes examples that support the main claim **BUT** may be somewhat general or vague. All three pieces of evidence are present. | Evidence is unclear, too general, or may lack focus in supporting the claim.At least two out of three pieces of evidence are present. | No evidence is included **OR**Evidence provided is inaccurate, plagiarized, or unrelated to the main idea or claim.Fewer than two pieces of evidence are present. |
| LinkScore: \_\_\_\_\_ | Includes sentences that explain thoroughly HOW the evidence supports the topic/claim.All three links are present. | Explanation offers a clear connection between evidence and topic **BUT** may lack depth or unique analysis.All three links are present | Explanation does not make a clear connection and may offer only a general reference back to the main idea.At least two out of three links are present. | No explanations that link the main idea and evidence are included.**OR**Links repeat or restate evidence.Fewer than two links are present. |
| TransitionsScore: \_\_\_\_ | Appropriate transitions are present before all examples and before the conclusion.Transitions are varied and help the paragraph flow smoothly. | All four transitions are present, BUT may be simple or unvaried (ex. First, Second, Third).Transitions help the paragraph flow smoothly. | Most transitions are present.Some transitions are not suitable or disrupt flow. | The transitions between ideas are unclear or nonexistent. The paragraph seems choppy.  |

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| ConclusionScore : \_\_\_\_\_ | Final statement(s) give the paragraph closure by summarizing claim and evidence.Closing statements creatively paraphrase main argument and explanation without simple repetition. | Final statement(s) give closure by summarizing claim and evidence, **BUT** may do so in a somewhat repetitive or simplistic way. | Final statements do not fully summarize your claim and evidence, and may simply restate your general claim. | Concluding summary statements are not included **OR** Statement does not maintain focus on the original claim. |
| Conventions/ Language Score: \_\_\_\_ | Writer makes no errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content. Word choice, terms, and point of view are accurate for assignment. | Writer makes 1-2 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.Word choice, terms, and point of view are mostly accurate for assignment. | Writer makes 3-4 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.There are several errors in word choice, terms, and point of view | Writer makes more than 4 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.There are too many errors in word choice, terms, and point of view for the paragraph to be understood |
| Presentation/ Format Score: \_\_\_\_ | MLA Heading is accurate; Title is appropriate and telling; Paragraph is double spaced with indented first line.Author took great care to make the paragraph visually appealing. | Two of the three components are present:MLA Heading is accurate; Title is appropriate and telling; Paragraph is double spaced with indented first line. | One of the three components is present:MLA Heading is accurate; Title is appropriate and telling; Paragraph is double spaced with indented first line. | None of the following components is present:MLA Heading is accurate; Title is appropriate and telling; Paragraph is double spaced with indented first line.Author did not follow directions in regard to formatting the document |

Total: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_