

# The Heart of a Watershed Assessment Scoring Rubric

	Poor (1 pt)	Developing (2 pts)	Meeting (3 pts)
Claim (Takes a position)	Claim is not present or it does not address relevance/significance of the topic. A convincing argument is not made.	A general claim is present. Acknowledges the relevance but does not explain the importance of the topic.	A precise developed claim is present. Explains the relevancy and importance of the topic.
Evidence (Develops ideas with examples)	Specific reasoning for the claim is not stated. Evidence is wrong, repetitive or irrelevant.	Some reasons are more supported than others. Evidence has minor mistakes and is not explained in detail.	Claim is well-supported. Evidence is relevant, accurate and thoroughly explained.
Science Content/ Background	The topic is not developed and contains major mistakes.	The topic is explained, but minor mistakes are made.	Accurate scientific information is included throughout the writing.
Vocabulary	Science vocabulary is not used correctly.	Science vocabulary is used with minor mistakes in their definitions.	Uses a variety of science vocabulary correctly.
Style and Organization	Formal style is not present. Complete sentences are not used. There is no specific focus. There are major grammatical mistakes. There are no transitions between ideas. There is no clarity in the writing.	Formal style is inconsistent. Complete sentences are used but informal language is present. Main ideas are clear, but stray from the claim. Some grammatical mistakes are made. Transitions are used but do not connect ideas.	Formal style reflects an objective tone. Creates a logical structure with complete sentences and paragraphs. Focus is always on the claim. Grammar is used correctly. Transitions clarify relationships.
Concluding Statement	No concluding statement present that summarizes the argument.	Provides a sense of closure. Concluding statement is present but the statement does not reflect the argument presented.	Concluding statement supports the argument and major ideas are developed. Statements are not repeated and implications explained.

Two strong components:

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Two components that can be improved:

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