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| Thesis Statement | Is in the form of a declarative sentence, clearly and concisely states the main point Establishes focus that clearly directs the body of the essay. | In the form of a declarative sentence and makes a point, but is a bit too broad, adequately directs the body of the essay. | In the form of a declarative sentence, but is vague, unfocused and does not make a concrete point. | Not in a declarative sentence. Thesis statement fails to establish the direction of the essay. | No thesis statement. |
| Outline | 4-6 major points that clearly support the thesis, at least 12 supporting details that are broad enough to support a paragraph. Correct format used. | 4-6 major points that support the thesis, at least 12 supporting details that are broad enough to support a paragraph. Correct format used. | 4-6 major points that mostly support the thesis, at least 2 supporting details for each major point; some major points weak | Missing 2 or more major points and supporting details; only one supporting detail for a major point | Unrecognizable as an outline |

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