Basic Essay Structure - CCS W8.1
Grading Items 5, Top Score: 5

Thesis Statement
Score 5: Clear thesis which establishes the writer's position and acknowledges possible alternative positions.
Score 4: Mostly clear thesis which establishes the writer's position.
Score 3: Thesis statement is evident, but the author's position is not entirely clear.
Score 2: Incomplete attempt at a thesis statement.
Score 1: No clear thesis apparent.

Overall Structure
Score 5: Ideas are logically ordered. Clear introduction/thesis, body/support, and conclusion paragraphs.
Score 4: Ideas follow a mostly logical structure. Four of the five component paragraphs appear.
Score 3: Ideas have some structure, but at least two key paragraphs are missing.
Score 2: Many key structural elements are missing.
Score 1: No evident structure.

Supporting Evidence
Score 5: All claims are backed with properly quoted passages of text.
Score 4: Most key claims are backed with properly cited text.
Score 3: A few text citations were made, but many assertions do not have strong supporting evidence.
Score 2: Only one or two ideas are supported with evidence.
Score 1: No text evidence supports key claims.

Formal Style
Score 5: Author provides a concluding statement that follows from and supports argument presented.
Score 4: Essay follows most conventions of formal style.
Score 3: Author has clearly attempted to use formal style, but fails in several places.
Score 2: Little attempt made to use formal style.
Score 1: No attempt at using formal essay style.

Conclusion
Score 5: Author provides a concluding statement that follows from and supports argument presented.
Score 4: Concluding statement mostly follows from and supports the author's argument.
Score 3: Essay contains a concluding statement, but it only somewhat supports the argument presented.
Score 2: Concluding statement introduces a new idea or fails to support the argument presented.
Score 1: No attempt at using formal essay style.