RUBRIC FOR IDEAS

- My paper is crystal clear from the first sentence to the last. It is easy to tell what my main idea is.
 - Every detail relates plainly to my main idea. My paper is focused.
 - I know this topic well, and the reader can tell that by reading my paper.
 - I was careful to choose interesting, unusual details that would keep readers reading.
- This paper makes sense. It is not confusing or vague. I think this topic is well-defined and manageable; it's not too big
 - Almost everything I write relates to my main idea.
 - I know quite a bit about this topic.
 - Most of my details go beyond the obvious. The reader may gain some insight or learn one or two interesting things by reading.
- The reader can tell what my main idea is. I may have a moment of confusing or vague writing. This topic still needs to be smaller.
 - Most of what I write relates to my main idea.
 - I know some things about this topic. If I knew more, or if I'd thought about it more, the paper would be stronger.
 - Some interesting or unusual details stand out. At other moments, I let my writing get too general, or I repeated things
- The reader can probably guess what my main idea is. Some parts are not clear, though. I think it would help to make this topic smaller.
 - Some of this information isn't really related to my main idea.
 - I needed to know more about this topic to do a really good job.
 - I have a few interesting details. But the reader must hunt for them. A lot of this writing is general information everyone knows.
- My main idea is hard to figure out. I think the reader will wonder what it is I am trying to say. Maybe my topic is too big.
 - A lot of this information does not relate to my main idea;
 - I do not know much about my topic. Mostly I wrote to fill space.
 - I need a lot more detail. This does not say much.
- I do not even have a main idea. I wrote whatever came into my head.
 - This is just a list of facts or events.
 - This is unclear and confusing. Most readers will not keep reading.
 - I really don't include any details.

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