Criteria	Excellent	4	Proficient	3	Developing	2	Beginning	1-0
1. Thesis/ Focus	Thesis and purpose are clear, closely match the writing task. Clear evidence of sophisticated analysis or innovative thinking. Exam problems with novel approaches and address issues with a liberal approach to diverse values.	Thesis and purpose are clear, closely match the writing task. Thesis, purpose and conclusion are somewhat original. Address issues with multiple perspectives.	Thesis and purpose are fairly clear and match the writing task. Thesis, purpose and conclusion are routine or familiar. Address issues with multiple perspectives.	Reader cannot determine thesis & purpose and/or thesis has no relation to the writing task.
2. Support	Substantial, logical, and concrete development of ideas. Assumptions are made explicit. Details are germane, original, and convincingly interpreted. Synergize different concepts and methods to address the problem.	Offers solid and convincing but less original reasoning. Assumptions are mostly recognized or made explicit. Contains appropriate details or examples Integrate different concepts and methods to address the problem, with some new ideas generated.	Offers solid but less original reasoning. Assumptions are not always recognized or made explicit. Contains some appropriate details or examples. Apply different concepts and methods to address the problem.	Offers simplistic, undeveloped, or cryptic support for ideas; inappropriate or off-topic generalizations; faulty assumptions; and/or errors of fact.
3. Sources	Uses sources to support, extend, and inform, but not substitute for writer's own development of ideas. Skillfully combines material from a variety of sources. Always conforms to style manual.	Uses sources to support, extend, and inform the writer's own development of ideas. Appropriately uses quotes and always conform to required style manual.	Uses sources to support, extend, and inform the writer's own development of ideas. Appropriately uses quotes but may not always conform to required style manual.	Fails to use sources and/or overuses quotations or paraphrasing and/or uses source material without acknowledgement.
4. Organization	Fully supports thesis & purpose. Sequence of ideas is effective. Transitions are smooth and effective. Arguments are convincingly presented in a logical, coherent and convincing manner. Unanticipated perspectives are demonstrated. Counterarguments are taken into accounts.	Organization supports thesis and purpose. Transitions are well delivered. Present arguments in a logical and coherent manner. Counterarguments are taken into accounts.	Organization supports thesis and purpose. Transitions are generally appropriate. However, sequence of ideas could be improved Present arguments in a logical and coherent manner.	Unclear organization and/or organizational plan is inappropriate to thesis and/or no transitions.
5. Style	Sentences are varied, complex, and employed for effect. Diction is precise, appropriate, using advanced vocabulary. Tone is mature, consistent, suitable for topic and audience. Adheres to required length.	Sentences show some variety & complexity. Diction is mostly accurate and appropriate. Tone is appropriate. Adheres to required length.	Sentences show some variety & complexity. Diction is mostly accurate, generally appropriate, less advanced. Tone is appropriate. Adheres to required length.	Superficial and stereotypical language. Oral rather than written language patterns predominate.