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Thesis/Claim	An exceptional thesis/claim that responds to the assignment 10 points	An effective thesis/claim that responds to the assignment 7.5 points	A somewhat effective thesis/claim that somewhat responds to the assignment 5 points	No thesis/claim, one that does not make sense, or one that does not respond to the assignment 2.5 points
A statement of your argument; the essay's "main idea"				
Supporting Ideas/ Evidence	Exceptional supporting ideas/evidence that make logical sense 10 points	Effective supporting ideas/evidence that make logical sense 7.5 points	Supporting ideas/evidence, which somewhat make sense 5 points	Either very few or no supporting ideas/evidence or ideas/evidence which do not make sense 2.5 points
Ideas and evidence that support your thesis/claim, including appropriate set-ups for secondary sources are exemplified.				
Analysis of Supporting Ideas/Evidence	Exceptional explanations that connect the ideas/evidence to the thesis/claim 10 points	Effective explanations that connect the ideas/evidence to the thesis/claim 7.5 points	Somewhat effective explanations that connect the ideas/evidence to the thesis/claim 5 points	Ineffective or no connection of ideas/evidence to the thesis/claim 2.5 points
A logical connection of ideas/evidence to your thesis/claim including your strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats are consistently displayed.				
Introduction	An exceptional introduction that includes a thesis/claim, its context and a preview of the essay body 10 points	An effective introduction that includes a thesis/claim, its context and a preview of the essay body 7.5 points	A somewhat effective introduction that includes a thesis/claim, its context and a preview of the essay body 5 points	No introduction, or an introduction without a thesis/claim, context or preview of the essay body 2.5 points
The preview of the essay body includes a thesis/claim and gives its context.				
Body Paragraphs and	Paragraphs with exceptional topic	Paragraphs with effective topic	Paragraphs with somewhat	Paragraphs with ineffective or no

Transitions	sentences, supporting sentences and concluding sentences Exceptional transitions between and within paragraphs 10 points	sentences, supporting sentences and concluding sentences Effective transitions between and within paragraphs 7.5 points	effective topic sentences, supporting sentences and concluding sentences Somewhat effective transitions between and within paragraphs 5 points	topic sentences, supporting sentences or concluding sentences Ineffective or no transitions between or within paragraphs 2.5 points
Organization at the paragraph level displays each paragraph has a clear topic sentence stating its main idea and supporting sentences. All alternatives and solutions are described and clearly evaluated. Connections from one paragraph flow grammatically to each other within paragraphs with central issues.				
Conclusion	An exceptional conclusion 10 points	An effective conclusion 7.5 points	A somewhat effective or off-topic conclusion 5 points	Ineffective or no conclusion 2.5 points
With a clear and concise implantation plan a fresh restatement of thesis/claim is shown as a thoughtful ending to the essay.				
Style	Exceptionally advanced and complex vocabulary, frequently varied sentence structure and length 10 points	Effectively advanced and complex vocabulary, occasionally varied sentence structure and length 7.5 points	A mostly accurate vocabulary, some varied sentence structure and length 5 points	Inaccurate vocabulary; rarely varied sentence structure and length 2.5 points
Vocabulary, sentence structure and variety used to establish a unique writer's voice				
Tone	A tone that shows an exceptional awareness of audience,	A tone that shows an effective awareness of	A tone that shows a somewhat effective awareness of	A tone that shows ineffective or no awareness of audience,

	purpose and occasion 10 points	audience, purpose and occasion 7.5 points	audience, purpose and occasion 5 points	purpose and occasion 2.5 points
An appropriate use of language that shows an awareness of audience, purpose and occasion				
Grammar & Usage	Exceptional control of grammar and writing conventions with no errors 10 points	Effective control of grammar and writing conventions, with few errors that do not prevent understanding 7.5 points	Somewhat effective control of grammar and writing conventions, with occasional errors that limit understanding 5 points	A lack of control of grammar and writing conventions, with frequent errors that prevent understanding 2.5 points
No unintended run-ons or fragments, correct subject-verb & pronoun-antecedent agreement, correct tense, correct punctuation, capitalization and spelling				
Formatting	Correct formatting 10 points	Mostly correct formatting 7.5 points	Somewhat correct formatting 5 points	Incorrect formatting 2.5 points
12-point font, correct margins and spacing and/or other assignment-specific				



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