

Score	Statement of purpose/focus	Organization	Elaboration of evidence	Language and Vocabulary	Conventions (grammar, usage, punc.)
4	Thesis statement is focused and clearly stated in the intro. paragraph; thesis is strongly supported throughout the essay.	The response has a clear and effective organizational structure creating unity and completeness: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Use of a variety of transitional strategies;</li> <li>- Logical progression of ideas from beginning to end;</li> <li>- Effective introduction and conclusion;</li> <li>- Strong connections among ideas &amp; some sentence variety.</li> </ul>	The response provides thorough and convincing support/evidence for the thesis or main idea that includes the effective use of sources, facts, and details. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The response achieves depth that is specific and relevant;</li> <li>- Evidence from sources is smoothly integrated and are effective in supporting the thesis;</li> <li>- Explanations are effective in supporting the thesis.</li> </ul>	The response clearly and effectively expresses ideas, using precise language: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Use of academic and content vocabulary is clearly appropriate for the audience and purpose.</li> </ul>	The essay demonstrates a strong command of conventions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Few, if any, errors are present in usage and sentence structure but not distracting;</li> <li>- Effective and consistent use of punc., caps., and sp.</li> </ul>
3	Thesis statement is generally focused and clearly stated in the intro. paragraph; thesis is sufficiently supported throughout with minor flaws.	The response has an evident organizational structure and a sense of completeness, with minor flaws: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Adequate connections and use of transitional strategies;</li> <li>- Adequate progression of ideas from beginning to end; Intro, and conclusion are adequate.</li> </ul>	The response provides adequate support/evidence for the thesis or main idea that includes the use of sources, facts, and details: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Evidence from sources is integrated and, overall, provides sufficient support for the main claim;</li> <li>- Citations may be general (not very specific).</li> <li>- Explanations are sufficient.</li> </ul>	The response adequately expresses ideas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Use of content vocabulary is generally appropriate for the audience and purpose.</li> </ul>	The response demonstrates an adequate command of conventions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Some errors in usage and sentence structure but not too distracting;</li> <li>- Adequate use of punc., caps., and sp.</li> </ul>
2	Thesis statement may be unclear and somewhat unfocused; thesis is insufficiently supported throughout the essay.	Inconsistent organizational structure and flaws are evident: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Inconsistent use of transitions and weak connections;</li> <li>- Uneven progression of ideas from beginning to end; conclusion and/or introduction are weak.</li> </ul>	The response provides unclear support/evidence for the thesis or main idea that includes unclear use of sources, facts, and details: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Evidence from sources is weakly written or provides insufficient support;</li> <li>- Citations, if present, are inconsistent;</li> <li>- Explanations are too brief, insufficient, or unclear.</li> </ul>	The response expresses ideas unevenly, using simplistic language: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Use of content vocabulary is minimal.</li> </ul>	The response demonstrates a partial command of conventions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Frequent errors in usage may cause confusion; Inconsistent use of punc., caps., and spelling.</li> </ul>
1	Thesis statement is	The response has little or	The response provides	The response expresses	- Errors are frequent

	unfocused and poorly supported throughout.	no clear organizational structure.	minimal support/evidence for the thesis; no use of sources, facts, and details; No explanations .	ideas that lack clarity; - Uses limited language or content vocabulary.	and severe and confuses the reader.
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0 = A response gets no credit if it provides no evidence of thesis, textual support and elaboration.