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|  | **Focus, Organization, and Purpose (4 Points)** | **Evidence and Elaboration (4 Points)** |
| **4** | **The response is complete and focused.**   * The main idea of a topic isclearly stated and strongly maintained throughout the essay.   **The response has a clear and effective organizational structure:**   * Variety of transitional strategies link ideas and information *(another, for example, also, because, for instance)* * Related ideas are grouped in paragraphs * Logical progression of ideas from beginning to end * Conclusion is related to the main idea   **The main idea is communicated clearly within the purpose, audience and task.**   * Purpose of writing is to inform. * Formal tone is used throughout the response. | **The response provides thorough and convincing support/evidence for the main idea:**   * Effective use of sources, facts, concrete details, quotations, and related information and examples * Use of evidence from sources is smoothly integrated, complete, and relevant * Use of a variety of elaborative techniques   **The response clearly and effectively expresses ideas:**   * Use of precise language * Use of academic and content related vocabulary to support main idea. |
| **3** | **The response is complete and focused.**   * The main idea of a topic isstated and adequately maintained throughout the essay.   **The response has a clear and effective organizational structure:**   * Some variety of transitional strategies link ideas and information *(another, for example, also, because, for instance)* * Related ideas are adequately grouped in paragraphs * Adequate logical progression of ideas from beginning to end * Conclusion is adequately related to the main idea   **The main idea is communicated clearly within the purpose, audience and task.**   * Purpose of writing is mostly clear. * Formal tone is used mostly used. | **The response provides thorough and convincing support/evidence for the main idea:**   * Adequate use of sources, facts, concrete details, quotations, and related information and examples * Use of evidence from sources is integrated, complete, and relevant * Adequate variety of elaborative techniques   **The response clearly and effectively expresses ideas:**   * Use of precise language * Some use of academic and content related vocabulary to support main idea. |
| **2** | **The response is somewhat sustained and may have a minor drift in focus:**   * may be clearly focused on the controlling or main idea, but is insufficiently sustained * controlling idea or main idea may be unclear and somewhat unfocused   **The response has an inconsistent organizational structure, and flaws are evident:**   * inconsistent use of transitional strategies with little variety * uneven progression of ideas from beginning to end * conclusion and introduction, if present, are weak | **The response provides uneven, cursory support/ evidence for the controlling idea or main idea that includes partial or uneven use of sources, facts, and details:**   * evidence from sources is weakly integrated, and citations, if present, are uneven * weak or uneven use of elaborative techniques   **The response expresses ideas unevenly, using simplistic language:**   * use of content related vocabulary that may at times be inappropriate for the audience and purpose |
| **1** | **The response may be related to the topic but may provide little or no focus:**   * may be very brief * may have a major drift * focus may be confusing or ambiguous   **The response has little or no discernible organizational structure:**   * few or no transitional strategies are evident * frequent extraneous ideas may intrude | **The response provides minimal support/evidence for the controlling idea or main idea that includes little or no use of sources, facts, and details:**   * use of evidence from the source material is minimal, absent, in error, or irrelevant   **The response expression of ideas is vague, lacks clarity, or is confusing:**   * uses limited language or content related vocabulary * may have little sense of audience and purpose |