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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
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| **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
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