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| **Score: 4**   * **Claim:** Thesis is arguable and sophisticated. * **Production of Writing:** Essay is well-focused, highly organized, and persuasive. * **Content:** Essay reflects unique insight and understanding of topic. * **Content:** Effective use and selection of evidence. * **Content:** Skillfully addresses counterclaim. * **Editing:** Essay is virtually free of grammatical errors. |
| **Score: 3**   * **Claim:** Thesis is arguable. * **Production of Writing:** Essay is appropriately organized. * **Content:** Essay reflects an accurate understanding of topic. * **Content:** Appropriate use and selection of evidence. * **Content:** Appropriately addresses counterclaim. * **Editing:** Essay may contain a few grammatical errors. |
| **Score: 2**   * **Claim:** There is a thesis, but it may general or not arguable. * **Production of Writing:** Essay is disorganized at times. * **Content:** Reflects some understanding of topic. * **Content:** Some problems with evidence selection. * **Content:** Ineffective use of counterclaim. * **Editing:** Essay contains many grammatical errors. |
| **Score: 1**   * **Claim:** Thesis is unclear or missing. * **Production of Writing:** Essay is disorganized throughout. * **Content:** Reflects little or no understanding of topic. * **Content:** Little or no use of evidence or several problems with evidence selection. * **Content:** Little or no recognition of counterclaim. * **Editing:** Essay contains many grammatical errors and essay may be hard to understand. |
| **Score: 0**   * Blank response or one with no reference to prompt. |

**Grade conversion:**

4 = A

3 = B

2 = C

1 = D

0 = F