

Name:

CATEGORY	5 - Above Standards	4 - Meets Standards	3 - Approaching Standards	2 - Below Standards
Focus or Thesis Statement	The thesis statement names the topic of the essay and outlines the main points to be discussed. The claim is arguable and complex. The claim provides insight into critical reading of the text.	The thesis statement names the topic of the essay. The claim implies potential argument, but lacks the clarity of a concise statement. Thoughtful response can be inferred.	The thesis statement outlines some or all of the main points to be discussed but does not name the topic. The claim is a restatement of the prompt and/or no definite position is taken. Writer misunderstands prompt/text.	The thesis statement does not name the topic AND does not preview what will be discussed, or the claim is missing.
Sequencing	Arguments and support are provided in a logical order that makes it easy and interesting to follow the author's train of thought. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A variety of thoughtful transitions are used. They clearly show how ideas are connected 	Arguments and support are provided in a fairly logical order that makes it reasonably easy to follow the author's train of thought. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transitions show how ideas are connected, but there is little variety 	A few of the support details or arguments are not in an expected or logical order, distracting the reader and making the essay seem a little confusing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some transitions work well, but some connections between ideas are fuzzy. 	Many of the support details or arguments are not in an expected or logical order, distracting the reader and making the essay seem very confusing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The transitions between ideas are unclear OR nonexistent.
	10	8	6	4
Support for Position (For each draft, at least 5 pieces of evidence need to be fresh to your argument)	Includes 3 or more pieces of evidence from the main texts and at least 2 pieces of evidence from outside sources (facts, statistics, examples, real-life experiences) that support the position statement. The writer anticipates the reader's concerns, biases or arguments and has provided at least 1 counter-argument	Includes 5 or more pieces of evidence (facts, statistics, examples, real-life experiences) that support the position statement.	Includes 2-3 pieces of evidence (facts, statistics, examples, real-life experiences) that support the position statement.	Includes 1 or fewer pieces of evidence (facts, statistics, examples, real-life experiences).

	15	12	9	6
Evidence and Examples	All of the evidence and examples are specific, relevant, and all supportive facts and statistics are reported accurately; and explanations are given that show how each piece of evidence supports the author's position.	Most of the evidence and examples are specific, relevant, and almost all supportive facts and statistics are reported accurately; and/or explanations are given that show how each piece of evidence supports the author's position.	At least one of the pieces of evidence and examples is relevant or are reported accurately and/or has an explanation that shows how that piece of evidence supports the author's position.	Evidence and examples are NOT relevant AND/OR are not explained; and/or most supportive facts are not reported accurately
	5	4	3	2
Grammar, Usage, & Mechanics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Author makes no errors in grammar or mechanics that distract the reader from the content. • All sentences are well-constructed with varied structure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Author makes 1-3 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content. • Most sentences are well-constructed and there is some varied sentence structure in the essay. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Author makes 4-5 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content. • Most sentences are well constructed, but there is no variation in structure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Author makes more than 5 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content. • Most sentences are not well-constructed or varied.
Closing paragraph	The conclusion is strong and leaves the reader solidly understanding the writer's position. Effective restatement of the position statement begins the closing paragraph.	The conclusion is recognizable. The author's position is restated within the first two sentences of the closing paragraph.	The author's position is restated within the closing paragraph, but not near the beginning.	There is no clear restatement of the author's position.
MLA Format	All parts of MLA formatting are perfect (works cited page, works cited entries, header, heading, in-text citations, title, margins). All sources used for quotes, statistics and facts are credible and cited correctly.	1-2 errors in MLA formatting and/or all sources used for quotes, statistics and facts are credible and most are cited correctly.	3-4 errors in MLA formatting and/or most sources used for quotes, statistics and facts are credible and cited correctly.	5 or more errors in MLA formatting, or essay is not done using MLA format and/or many sources are suspect (not credible) AND/OR are not cited correctly.

Comments:

Total: _____ / 50

The American Classic is incorporated to support the writer's definition by Draft 3. _____/10
Interview is incorporated to support the writer's definition by the final draft. _____/10

Comments:

Total: _____