Student Name _____

Term _____

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Thesis & Focus	Clear, well-phrased, appropriate thesis Effective focus Addresses all points of the assignment.	Clear appropriate thesis appropriate focus Addresses all points of the assignment	Less clear thesis minimal focus Addresses the assignment, but slights some tasks	Inappropriate, unclear, or missing thesis Lacks focus Demonstrates confusion about the assignment	
Organization & Structure	Order and pattern of ideas is logical, coherent, and perhaps even dramatic	Order and pattern of ideas is logical and coherent	All parts of the essay are presented, but may not be in the best order or may lack coherence	Incoherent or illogical organization	
Critical Thinking & Support	Insightful critical thinking and reasoning. Strategic use of relevant and concrete support. Appropriate depth of research: sources are relevant, credible, varied, and of high quality.	Sound critical thinking and reasoning. Effective use of relevant and concrete support. Less depth of research; sources are relevant and credible.	Predictable thinking and reasoning. Adequate support. Research lacks depth.	Little evidence of critical thinking. Irrelevant and inadequate support. Lack of relevant sources.	
Audience Awareness & Purpose	Strong audience awareness Rigorous; consistently engages reader Achieves purpose	Awareness of needs and expectations of readers Achieves purpose	Limited audience awareness Shifting point-of- view Weak or shifting purpose	No audience awareness Lacks or fails to achieve purpose	
Style	Appropriate and consistent tone and voice Sophisticated language and sentence structure College-level vocabulary	Tone or voice wavers at times Less sophisticated language and sentence structure College-level vocabulary	Inconsistent voice Unnecessary repetition Less sentence variety Limited vocabulary	Inappropriate tone or voice Lack of sentence variety Basic vocabulary	
Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling	Generally free from errors	There may be a few minor errors	Patterns of errors	Frequent errors interfere with readability	
Documentation	Writer documents in-text and list of works cited correctly	Writer documents sources correctly, but there may be some minor errors	Writer attempts to document sources, but formatting is sometimes incorrect Formatting is inconsistent	Documentation is missing or incorrect	Plagiarism

Grade: _____