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| **Description** | **Exemplary (10)** | **(9)** | **Proficient (8)** | (7) | **Developing (6)** |
| **Claim:**  The text introduces a clear, arguable claim that can be supported by reasons and evidence. | The text introduces a compelling claim that is clearly arguable and takes a purposeful position on an issue. The text has a structure and organization that is carefully crafted to support the claim. |  | The text introduces a claim that is arguable and takes a position. The text has a structure and organization that is aligned with the claim. |  | The text contains an unclear or emerging claim that suggests a vague position. The text attempts a structure and organization to support the position. |
| **Development**:  The text provides sufficient data and evidence to back up the claim as well as a conclusion that supports the argument. | The text provides convincing and relevant data and evidence to back up the claim and effectively addresses counterclaims. The conclusion strengthens the claim and evidence. |  | The text provides sufficient data and evidence to back up the claim and addresses counterclaims. The conclusion ties to the claim and evidence. |  | The text provides data and evidence that attempts to back up the claim and unclearly addresses counterclaims or lacks counterclaims. The conclusion merely restates the position. |
| **Audience**:  The text anticipates the audience’s knowledge level and concerns about the claim. The text addresses the specific audience’s needs. | The text consistently addresses the audience’s knowledge level and concerns about the claim. The text addresses the specific needs of the audience. |  | The text considers the audience’s knowledge level and concerns  about the claim. The text addresses the needs of the audience. |  | The text illustrates an inconsistent awareness of the audience’s knowledge level and needs. |
| **Cohesion:**  The text uses words, phrases, and clauses to link the major sections of the text, creates cohesion, and  clarifies the relationships between the  claim and reasons, between reasons and evidence, and between claims and counterclaims. | The text strategically uses words, phrases, and clauses to link the major sections of the text. The text explains the relationships between the claim and reasons as well as the evidence. The text strategically links the counterclaims to the claim. |  | The text uses words, phrases, and clauses to link the major sections of the text. The text connects the claim and reasons. The text links the counterclaims to the claim. |  | The text contains limited words, phrases, and clauses to link the major sections of the text. The text attempts to connect the claim and reasons. |
| **Style and Conventions:**  The text presents a formal, objective tone that demonstrates standard English conventions of usage and mechanics along with discipline- specific requirements (i.e. MLA, APA, etc.). | The text presents an engaging, formal and objective tone. The text intention- ally uses standard English conventions of usage and mechanics along with discipline-specific requirements (i.e. MLA, APA, etc.). |  | The text presents a formal, objective tone. The text demonstrates standard English conventions of usage and mechanics along with  discipline specific requirements  (i.e. MLA, APA, etc.). |  | The text illustrates a limited awareness of formal tone. The text demonstrates some accuracy in standard English conventions of usage and mechanics. |

Reflection: What I did well in the essay… What I need to work on / next steps – If I were to revise this, I would…