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	4 Exceeds Standard	3 Meets Standard	2 Approaches Standard	1 Below Standard
Claim/Thesis	• Thesis is complex, focused and clear • Fully addresses the prompt	• Thesis establishes a clear provable argument • Thesis addresses the prompt, but lacks depth	• Thesis attempts to make an argument • Thesis lacks clarity	• No thesis present, or thesis does not make an argument
Document Based Evidence	• Uses specific references to documents (including quotations) in order to support the thesis • Clearly integrates document based evidence into the paragraph • Selects documents most relevant to the thesis • Documents are clearly cited	• Uses specific references to documents to support general ideas • Integrates document based evidence into the paragraph • Use of document based evidence is clear and cited	• Uses document based evidence, but may fail to relate the evidence to the prompt or to tie the evidence to the thesis • Use of document based evidence is not cited	• Does not use document-based evidence
Analysis/ Explanation	• Analysis supports and clearly connects document based evidence and historical content knowledge to thesis • Analysis has depth and accuracy	• Analysis supports and connects document based evidence and historical content knowledge to thesis, but lacks depth • Analysis is accurate	• Analysis attempts to support and make connections to thesis, but that analysis is unclear • Analysis is not completely accurate	• Analysis attempted but unclear, or no analysis attempted
Style / Organization	• Logical progression of ideas from beginning to end • Concluding sentence is effective and relevant to thesis • Consistent use of transitional strategies clarify the relationships between and among ideas • In-text citations are used when appropriate	• Some logical progression of ideas from beginning to end, but may wander off task • Concluding sentence is somewhat relevant to thesis • Some use of transitional strategies between and among ideas • In-text citations are used when appropriate	• Uneven progression of ideas from beginning to end • Inconsistent use of transitional strategies • Concluding sentence makes no connection to thesis • Weak connection among ideas • In text citations are not used	• Inadequate link of ideas from beginning to end • Few or no transitional strategies are evident • Frequent extraneous ideas • No concluding sentence • In text citations are not used

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