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| IDEAS  **6**   * Clearly stated thesis that reflects the complexities of questions and/or issues generated from the prompt * Abundant, credible, and compelling evidence from multiple sources * Complex, thoughtful analysis of the evidence is used to prove thesis   **5**   * Clearly stated thesis addresses the questions and/or issues raised by the prompt * Ample evidence from varied and reliable sources * Evidence frequently connects to the questions and/or issues raised by the thesis   **4**   * Easily identified thesis that is on-topic * Reliable evidence generated from at least two sources * Limited analysis of evidence and/or connection to the thesis   **3**   * Thesis can be inferred * Little evidence presented to prove thesis * General discussion of topic   **2**   * Unclear or developing thesis * Insufficient evidence * questions and/or issues of prompt minimally addressed and not rooted in evidence   **1**   * No thesis--questions and/or issues of prompt not addressed * No research based information * Unsubstantiated and unrelated claims | ORGANIZATION  **6**   * Thoughtful structure guides reader from thesis to main points in essay * Lead provides context, background to prompt * Transitions connection main points so that the argument builds in intensity * Conclusion synthesizes main points and presents a compelling argument for the thesis   **5**   * Structure supports development of thesis * Lead introduces topic * Transitions make main points clear and make discussion easy to follow * Conclusion brings closure to discussion   **4**   * Structure allows reader to follow the discussion easily * Functional lead * Transitions are present and move reader from one idea to the next * Conclusion signals end of discussion   **3**   * Little structure-reader gets lost OR so much structure that essay is predictable * Lead off topic or sets up a false connection to essay * Few or inadequate transitions * Ending is abrupt or without distinction   **2**   * Poor structure, reader unsure about direction of essay * Lead does not introduce topic * Transitions unclear or missing * Unresolved conclusion   **1**   * No structure, reader feels lost * Ideas appear broken and in various locations throughout the essay * No transitions or transitions make inaccurate connections * No conclusion |