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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
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