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| **Criteria** | **Below Benchmark** | **Benchmark** | **Above Benchmark** | **Excellent** |
| **Genre****Conventions****/10** | **0 to 6 points**Lacks understanding and contains few or none of the required conventions of the writing task. | **7 to 7 points**Demonstrates general understanding and contains basic required conventions of the writing task. | **8 to 8 points**Demonstrates consideration of and follows most required conventions of the writing task. | **9 to 10 points**Demonstrates thorough consideration of and follows all required conventions of the writing task. |
| **Style****/5** | **0 to 2 points** Lacks awareness of academic style, tone, and audience. | **3 to 3 points**Demonstrates basic awareness of academic style, tone, and audience. | **4 to 4 points**Demonstrates understanding of academic style, tone, and audience. | **5 to 5 points**Demonstrates a thorough understanding of academic style, tone, and audience. |
| **Controlling****Idea/Thesis****/5** | **0 to 2 points**Incomplete or missing controlling idea/thesis. | **3 to 3 points**Uses a controlling idea/thesis that is not maintained throughout the essay | **4 to 4 points**Uses a clear controlling idea/thesis that is mostly maintained throughout the essay. | **5 to 5 points**Uses a clear controlling idea/thesis that is consistently maintained throughout the essay. |
| **Content &****Development****/40** | **0 to 27 points**Lacks appropriate, relevant, and convincing content. Limited or no logical and coherent development of ideas. | **28 to 31 points**Uses some appropriate, relevant, and convincing content. Demonstrates basic logical and coherent development of ideas. | **32 to 35 points**Uses mostly appropriate, relevant, and convincing content. Demonstrates mostly logical and coherent development of ideas. | **36 to 40 points**Uses appropriate, relevant, and convincing content. Demonstrates logical and coherent development of all ideas. |
| **Conclusion****/10** | **0 to 6 points**Limited or no reflection of student's informed evaluation of topic. Lacks implications and consequences of thesis. | **7 to 7 points**Somewhat reflects student's informed evaluation of topic. Contains basic implications and consequences of thesis. | **8 to 8 points**Reflects student's informed evaluation of topic. Implications and consequences of thesis are identified. | **9 to 10 points**Reflects student's informed evaluation of topic. Implications and consequences of thesis are presented. |
| **Syntax &****Usage****/20** | **0 to 13 points**Many grammatical errors. Little or no use of complex sentence structures. Little or no use of academic vocabulary. Many spelling, capitalization, and/or punctuation errors. | **14 to 15 points**A number of grammatical errors. Some use of complex sentence structures. Some use of academic vocabulary. A number of spelling, capitalization, and/or punctuation errors. | **16 to 17 points**Very few grammatical errors. Use of complex sentence structures in general. Correct use of academic vocabulary. Very few spelling, capitalization, and/or punctuation errors. | **18 to 20 points**No grammatical errors. A variety of complex sentence structures throughout the essay. A variety of correctly used academic vocabulary throughout the essay. No spelling, capitalization, and/or punctuation errors. |
| **APA Style and Use of Sources****/10** | **0 to 6 points**Attempts formatting requirements, including current APA referencing (in-text and Reference page) and contains many errors.Attempts to demonstrate interpretation and integration of academic, credible, relevant sources to support ideas. | **7 to 7 points**Uses formatting requirements, including current APA referencing (in-text and Reference page) and contains a number of errors.Demonstrates basic interpretation and integration of academic, credible, relevant sources to support ideas. | **8 to 8 points**Uses formatting requirements, including current APA referencing (in-text and Reference page) and contains few errors.Demonstrates interpretation and integration of academic, credible, relevant sources to support ideas. | **9 to 10 points**Meets all formatting requirements, including current APA referencing (in-text and Reference page) and is error-free.Demonstrates consistent interpretation and integration of academic, credible, relevant sources to support ideas. |

**Total: Comments:**