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|  | **A**  | **B**  | **C**  | **D** | **F** |
| **Focus** | effectively develops a claim which addresses the prompt | develops a claim which addresses the prompt | develops a claim that is superficial or unclear | develops a claim that is vague or seriously limited | develops no claim |
| Meaningfully sustains and builds claim throughout essay | Sustains claim throughout essay | Refers to claim throughout essay but often superficially | Occasionally loses focus, thereby weakening claim | Fails to focus on claim throughout essay |
| demonstrates strong critical thinking | demonstrates competent critical thinking | demonstrates some critical thinking | demonstrates weak critical thinking | demonstrates no critical thinking |
| **Evidence** | uses effective, appropriate examples, reasons, and other evidence to support its position | uses adequate examples, reasons, and other evidence to support its position | uses inadequate examples, reasons, and other evidence to support its position | provides inappropriate or insufficient evidence to support its position | provides little or no evidence to support its position |
| is well organized and focused | is generally organized and focused | is limited in organization and focus | is poorly organized  | is disorganized or unfocused |
| demonstrates coherence and progression of ideas | demonstrates some coherence and progression of ideas | demonstrates some lapses in coherence and progression of ideas | demonstrates serious problems in coherence and progression of ideas | Lacks coherence and logical progression of ideas |
| **Language/Style** | exhibits skillful use of language, using precise diction, no first or second (you/your) person, andstrong verbs | exhibits adequate but inconsistent facility in the use of language, using generally appropriate vocabulary | displays developing facility in the use of language but sometimes uses weak vocabulary or inappropriate word choice  | displays very little facility in the use of language, using very limited vocabulary or incorrect word choice  | displays fundamental errors in vocabulary |
| demonstrates variety in sentence structure | demonstrates some variety in sentence structure | lacks variety or demonstrates problems with sentence structure | demonstrates frequent problems with sentence structure | demonstrates severe flaws with sentence structure |
| is free of most errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics | has some errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics  | has many errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics  | has many errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics that obscure meaning | has many errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics that obscure meaning |
| Paper always uses proper MLA format (i.e. heading, margins, font, spacing, page numbers, & works cited). All sources are properly cited both in the body of the paper and on the works cited page | Paper mostly uses proper MLA format (i.e. heading, margins, font, spacing, page numbers, & works cited). Most sources are properly cited both in the body of the paper and on the works cited page | Paper sometimes uses proper MLA format (i.e. heading, margins, font, spacing, page numbers, & works cited). Most sources are properly cited both in the body of the paper and on the works cited page | Paper rarely uses proper MLA format (i.e. heading, margins, font, spacing, page numbers, & works cited). Few sources are properly cited both in the body of the paper and on the works cited page | Paper does not use proper MLA format (i.e. heading, margins, font, spacing, page numbers, & works cited). Few sources, if any, are properly cited both in the body of the paper and on the works cited page |

Final score:

 \_\_\_\_ A = 100- 90 \_\_\_\_B = 89-80 \_\_\_\_ C = 79-70 \_\_\_\_ D = 69-60 \_\_\_\_ F = 59 - 0