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| **Categories** | ***Grade***  | ***1***  | ***2***  | ***3***  | ***4***  |
| ***Content*** -info. is relevant to thesis-understanding of topic is apparent-uses lectures, textbook & readings appropriately |    | Meets requirements in a limited fashion-content is general but not concise-offers generalities, and off topic quite often | Meets requirements in a moderate fashion-content generally focused, but verbose at times-student not explaining content, or displaying strong understanding of it | Knowledge of all requirements in a strong fashion-focused content, well explained and understood by student   | Excellent knowledge of requirements-concise content, well focused   |
| ***Think/Inquire***-clear thesis-argument carried through essay-analysis of info. throughout essay (not just a narrative) |    | Meets requirements in a limited fashion-no thesis present apart from a generally focused essay on a very generalized topic-student has an opinion, not an argument | Meets requirements in a moderate fashion-thesis not readily apparent in intro, but one does appear as essay progresses-more of a narrative essay | Meets requirements in a strong fashion-focused thesis-stays on topic/argument-brings in alternate viewpoints to a certain extent | Excellent Analysis-synthesis of info. apparent, and new theories put forth based on essay (within reason for an undergrad. paper) |
| ***Communication*** -good intro. and conclusion-paragraph structure-clear writing/strong diction- appropriate vocabulary |    | Meets requirements in a limited fashion-unstructured intro – some points listed but in no order-weak paragraph structure and essay structure-weak vocabulary – below what is needed for an undergrad. paper | Meets requirements in a moderate fashioni.e.: essay structure there, but confused-same as re. paragraph structure-lapses into weak vocabulary too often | Meets requirements in a strong fashion.-few errors – not of a serious nature-structured intro with a clear outline present-strong conclusion-paper is easily followed by reader | Excellent Writing-vocab. beyond level of classroom-excellent paragraph transitions-strong conclusion-reader is pulled through essay with minimal effort |
| ***Application***-grammar, spelling-refers to sources used in essay (i.e.: textbook and articles) |    | Meets requirements in a limited fashion | Meets requirements in a moderate fashion-some frags. and run-ones, comma splices, spelling errors | Meets requirements in a strong fashion.-a few minor grammatical and spelling errors | Excellent Writing-if there are errors they are only typos (and very few of them) |