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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 fashion  i.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) |