**Rubric Name:**

This table lists criteria and criteria group name in the first column. The first row lists level names and includes scores if the rubric uses a numeric scoring method.Criteria

**Excellent**

20 points

**Proficient**

15 points

**Emerging**

10 points

**Developing**

5 points

**Unsatisfactory**

0 points

Thesis / Focus & Content

Thesis is clearly stated and appropriately focused.

Focus is sharp, distinct focus; balanced, substantial, specific, and/or illustrative content; sophisticated, mature ideas are particularly well-developed.

Thesis is clearly stated but focus could have been sharper.

There is clear focus; specific, illustrative, and balanced content

Thesis phrasing too simple, lacks complexity; or, not clearly worded

Adequate focus, but unbalanced content; more analysis needed

Thesis lacks a clear objective and/or does not “fit” content of essay

Essay contains too much research information without analysis or commentary

Thesis not evident

Absence of focus and relevant content; content doesn’t “fit” thesis

/ 20

Supporting Research & MLA Citations

The supporting research is thorough and relevant

MLA in-text citations: all sources are accurately documented in the proper MLA format

MLA Works cited page: all sources on Works Cited page follow proper MLA format

Supporting research is less thorough but still substantial and relevant.

MLA in-text citations: all sources are documented, but a few are not in the desired format.

MLA works cited list: most sources on Works Cited page follow proper MLA format

Supporting research is adequate; relevance made clear

MLA in-text citations: most sources are documented, but many are not in the desired format

MLA works cited list: most sources on Works Cited page follow proper MLA format

Supporting research is insufficient; relevance not always made clear

MLA in-text citation:several sources lack proper documentation

MLA works cited list: few of the sources on Works Cited page follow proper MLA format

Supporting research is irrelevant, missing, or relies on assertion rather than research

MLA in-text citation: sources are not accurately documented, and MLA format is not attempted or followed properly

MLA works cited list: none the sources on Works Cited page follow proper MLA format

/ 20

Organization

Obviously controlled and/or subtle organization; strong topic sentences

Logical and appropriate organization; clear topic sentences

Organization attempted, but unclear or inappropriate topic sentences

Inconsistent organization

Absence of planned organization

/ 20

Style

Writer’s voice is strong; precision in tone, sentence structure, and word choice

Precision and variety in sentence structure and word choice

Limited, but mostly correct, sentence structure variety and word choice

Several awkward and/or unclear sentences; problems with word choice

No apparent control over sentence structure and word choice

/ 20

Mechanics & Usage

Free of mechanical and usage errors

Few mechanical and usage errors

Some mechanical and usage errors, but not severe enough to interfere significantly with writer’s purpose

Mechanical and usage errors which interfere with writer’s purpose

Mechanical and usage errors that significantly interfere with the writer’s purpose

/ 20

Rubric Total Score

Total

/ 100

**Overall Score**

Overall Score

**A**

90 points minimum

**B**

80 points minimum

**C**

70 points minimum

**D**

60 points minimum

**F**

0 points minimum

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