

Scoring Elements	1	2	3	4
Thesis/Focus	Attempts to address prompt but lacks focus or is off-task. Thesis statement cannot be identified.	Includes a thesis statement and establishes a position, but focus is uneven	Takes a position using a thesis statement. Addresses prompt appropriately and maintains a clear, steady focus. Provides a generally convincing position.	Takes a clear position using a well-constructed thesis statement. Addresses all aspects of the prompt appropriately with a consistently strong focus and convincing position.
Evidence	Uses no evidence from the text to support main ideas.	Uses one piece of evidence to support main ideas.	Uses two or three pieces of evidence to support main ideas.	Uses four or more pieces of evidence to support main ideas.
Organization	Contains a weak introduction that fails to communicate key ideas. Attempts to organize ideas but lacks control of structure.	Contains an adequate introduction with mediocre paragraphs. Uses an appropriate organizational structure for development of reasoning and logic, with minor lapses in structure and/or coherence.	Contains a solid introduction, well-structured paragraphs for each of the arguments, and maintains an appropriate organizational structure to address specific requirements of the prompt.	Contains a captivating and articulate introduction, well-structured paragraphs, and maintains an organizational structure that intentionally and effectively enhances the presentation of information as required by the specific prompt.
Convention	Attempts to demonstrate standard English conventions but lacks cohesion and control of grammar, usage, and mechanics.	Demonstrates an uneven command of standard English conventions and cohesion. Uses language and tone with some inaccurate or inappropriate features.	Demonstrates a command of standard English conventions and cohesion with few errors. Response includes language and tone appropriate to the audience, purpose, and specific requirements of the prompt.	Demonstrates and maintains a well-developed command of standard English conventions and cohesion, with few errors. Response includes language and tone appropriate to the audience, purpose, and specific requirements of the prompt.
Analysis	Lacks or does not develop analysis.	Primarily bases analysis on textual plot points and does not incorporate social commentary.	Demonstrates thoughtful analysis of social commentary but strays from the argument of the essay.	Roots thoughtful analysis in social commentary. Analysis directly supports the argument of the essay.