| **Criterion** | **Excellent (4)** | **Good (3)** | **Fair (2)** | **Poor (1)** | **Weight** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Thesis & Focus | Clear, original thesis; focused throughout | Clear thesis, mostly maintained focus | Thesis present but vague; focus drifts | No clear thesis; unfocused | 3 |
| Organization | Logical structure; smooth transitions | Mostly logical; some transitions unclear | Some organization; transitions weak | Disorganized; lacks clear structure | 2 |
| Evidence & Support | Strong, relevant evidence; well-integrated | Good evidence; mostly relevant | Limited or somewhat irrelevant evidence | Lacks evidence or off-topic | 3 |
| Analysis & Reasoning | Insightful analysis; goes beyond summary | Some analysis; mostly explains evidence | Little analysis; mostly summary | No analysis; only summary or off-topic | 2 |
| Style & Clarity | Clear, engaging, and concise writing | Generally clear; minor awkwardness | Wordy or occasionally unclear | Hard to follow; confusing | 1 |
| Grammar & Mechanics | Virtually error-free; correct spelling/punctuation | Few minor errors; does not affect understanding | Several errors; somewhat distracting | Frequent errors; impedes understanding | 1 |