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| **Reflection**  **/20** | **Mastery**  **(4)** | **Proficient**  **(3)** | **Developing**  **(2)** | **Beginning**  **(1)** |
| **Thesis/Claim** | Contains an arguable claim that develops fresh insight and challenges the reader’s thinking. | |  | | --- | | Contains an arguable claim that is somewhat original. Thesis and purpose are fairly  clear. | | |  | | --- | | Thesis may be obvious or unimaginative. Thesis and purpose are somewhat vague. | | |  | | --- | | Reader cannot determine thesis and purpose OR thesis has no arguable claim. | |
| **Evidence &**  **Reasoning** | |  | | --- | | Includes all 3 rhetorical elements (logos, pathos, ethos) in the development of ideas. Details are relevant, original, and convincingly interpreted. | | |  | | --- | | Includes two rhetorical elements in the development of ideas. Offers solid but less original reasoning. Some areas lack details. | | |  | | --- | | Includes one rhetorical element in the development of ideas. Details are too general, not interpreted, irrelevant to thesis, or inappropriately  repetitive. | | |  | | --- | | Focuses on own thoughts and beliefs about the topic; neglects the rhetorical elements. Offers simplistic or undeveloped support for the ideas. | |
| **Opposing Viewpoints** | |  | | --- | | Acknowledges the opposing view and expresses a refutation logically with evidence. | | |  | | --- | | Acknowledges the opposing view but does not present sound refutation with evidence (or little evidence). | | |  | | --- | | Refutation paragraph missing and/or vague. | | |  | | --- | | Refutation missing. Obvious lack of sound, logical argument throughout. | |
| **Structure &**  **Organization** | |  | | --- | | Provides an effective hook and sufficient background information. Body flows from thesis; transitions guide the reader smoothly through the text; conclusion effectively wraps up the essay and ends with something memorable. | | |  | | --- | | Provides a hook and satisfactory background information. Body mostly flows from the thesis; transitions are awkward at times; appropriate conclusion. | | |  | | --- | | Provides an ineffective hook or insufficient background information. Body lacks a clear direction; transitions missing; conclusion has no sense of closure. | | |  | | --- | | Provides no hook. Work lacks structure; lacks a clear thesis; body seems haphazard; transitions are not present. No developed conclusion. | |
| Sources &  Documentation | Uses sources to support, extend, and inform, but not substitute writer’s own ideas. Source material is announced by a signal phrase and ends with appropriate in-text citations. | Uses sources to support, extend, and inform, but not substitute writer’s own ideas. Doesn’t overuse quotes but may not always conform to MLA/APA format. | Uses relevant sources but lacks in variety of sources and/or the skillful combination of sources. Quotations and paraphrases may be too long and/or inconsistently referenced. | Neglects important sources. Overuse of quotations or paraphrase to substitute writer’s own ideas. Probably uses source material without acknowledgement. |