	Excellent: 4-5	Satisfactory: 3	Inadequate: 2	Poor: 0-1
Intro & Thesis	Effectively establishes the context of the topic; effectively takes a position that defends, challenges, or qualifies the claim in the prompt.	Adequately establishes the context of the topic; Adequately takes a position that defends, challenges, or qualifies the claim in the prompt.	Inadequately establishes the context of the topic; Inadequately takes a position that defends, challenges, or qualifies the claim in the prompt.	Little success in establishing the context of the topic; Little success in taking a position that defends, challenges, or qualifies the claim in the prompt.
Support, Citations & Argument	Effectively supports position by effectively synthesizing and citing at least three of the sources. Writer's argument is convincing, and cited sources effectively support position.	Adequately supports position by effectively synthesizing and citing at least two of the sources. Writer's argument is generally convincing, and cited sources generally support position, but less developed than "successful."	Attempt to present an argument and support position by synthesizing and citing two sources, but may misunderstand, misrepresent, or oversimplify either writer's own argument or the cited sources included. Link between cited sources and argument is weak.	May merely allude to knowledge gained from reading the sources rather than citing the sources themselves. May misread sources, fail to present an argument, or merely respond to the question tangentially or by summarizing sources.
Expression of Comprehension & Analysis	Insightfully expresses connections between their thesis and the sources; demonstrates a thorough comprehensive grasp of the sources; thoughtfully anticipates and addresses the reader's potential misunderstandings, biases, and expectations.	Clearly expresses connections between their thesis and the sources; demonstrates a comprehensive grasp of the sources; anticipates and addresses the reader's potential misunderstandings, biases, and expectations.	Limited expression of connections between their thesis and the sources; demonstrates a limited grasp of the sources; may address the reader's potential misunderstandings, biases, and expectations, but in a limited manner.	Poor connection between their thesis and the sources; demonstrates minimal grasp of the text; does not address the reader's potential misunderstandings, biases, and expectations.
Writing Mechanics	Writing demonstrates an ability to control a wide range of elements of effective writing; few to no errors in formal English spelling and grammar; Proper citation integration & punctuation.	Writing demonstrates general ability to write clearly enough to convey ideas adequately; some errors in formal English spelling and grammar; some mistakes in citation integration & punctuation.	Writing demonstrates inadequate control of writing; errors are consistent and may be distracting to reader; may show inattention to citation integration or punctuation.	Writing shows consistent weaknesses through lack of development or organization, grammatical problems; errors are consistently distracting to the reader; shows little to no attention to citation or integration punctuation.