CATEGORY 1: CONTENT

Subcategory	Below Basic	Basic	Proficient	Advanced
1.1 Thesis	Does not have a clear thesis	Has a thesis that is vague or simplistic	Has an arguable thesis that captures the paper's central idea	Has an arguable thesis that captures the paper's central idea and is clear and thoughtful
1.2 Argument	Does not have an argument	Has an argument that is inconsistently sustained	Has an argument that is consistently sustained	Has an argument that is consistently sustained and fully develops the thesis
1.3 Focus & Scope	Does not have a central focus or sense of scope	Has a focus but wanders; or, is overly narrow or broad in scope	Has a focus with a few gaps and some extraneous information	Has a clear and sustained focus with no gaps or extraneous information
1.4 Originality	Does not have any original ideas	Has ideas, but they are commonplace or pedestrian	Has ideas that display some originality	Has valuable ideas that show significant depth and originality

CATEGORY 2: EVIDENCE

Subcategory	Below Basic	Basic	Proficient	Advanced
2.1 Supporting Claims	Has no claims or claims are unsupported	Uses evidence that is insufficient or inappropriate to support claims	Uses evidence that is mostly appropriate and mostly supports claims	Uses appropriate evidence that fully supports claims
2.2 Accuracy & Interpretation of Sources	Misrepresents or misquotes sources; sources are interpreted inaccurately	Usage indicates incomplete understanding of sources; sources are sometimes interpreted inaccurately	Usage indicates comprehension of sources; sources are interpreted accurately	Usage indicates deep understanding of sources; sources are interpreted accurately and insightfully
2.3 Source Engagement & Effectiveness	Does not attempt to engage with sources or uses them ineffectively	Tries to engage with sources and ideas but does so incorrectly or ineffectively	Engages with sources and ideas effectively	Engages with sources thoughtfully, indicating deep understanding; addresses implications

CATEGORY 3: STRUCTURE

Subcategory	Below Basic	Basic	Proficient	Advanced
3.1 Paragraph Usage	Paragraphs are not unified, topics shift frequently, no topic sentences	Paragraphs have some thematic unity but with weak or no topic sentences	Paragraphs have mostly consistent thematic unity; mostly strong topic sentences	Paragraphs have consistent thematic unity, with clear topic sentences and paragraph coherence
3.2 Framing & Signposting	Provides no guidance for reader at key points of work (i.e. opening and closing, transitions, etc.)	Provides weak or inconsistent guidance for reader at key points of work (i.e. opening and closing, transitions, etc.)	Adequately guides reader at key points of work (i.e. opening and closing, transitions, etc.)	Strategically guides reader at key points of work (i.e. opening and closing, transitions, etc.)
3.3 Cohesion	Lacks cohesion; no attention to structure and organization	Has some cohesion but many gaps exist or some ideas are out of place or repetitive	Has adequate cohesion with few gaps, repetitions, or misplaced ideas	Has strong cohesion; arguments are sequenced in logical order and ideas are clustered appropriately

CATEGORY 4: EXECUTION

Subcategory	Below Basic	Basic	Proficient	Advanced
4.1 Clarity & Style	Language is imprecise and meaning is obscured; no attention to style	Language is imprecise but meaning is intelligible; little attention to style	Language is mostly precise and intelligible; consistent attention to style	Language is both precise and concise; sophisticated and intentional style
4.2 Mechanics	Grammar, syntax, and spelling are highly problematic; meaning is obscured	Grammar, syntax, and spelling are often incorrect; meaning is intelligible	Grammar, syntax, and spelling are correct	Grammar, syntax, and spelling indicate comfort and sophistication
4.3 Task	Neglects assignment and citation guidelines	Displays an attempt to adhere to assignment and citation guidelines but makes errors	Adheres to most assignment and citation guidelines	Adheres to all assignment and citation guidelines