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|  | **Ideas and Analyses** | **Development and Support** | **Organization** | **Language Use** |
| Score 6  Essays at this level demonstrate highly effective writing skills. | Fulfills all requirements of the task and demonstrates a thorough understanding of the topic and at least more than one perspective.    25 | Effectively uses many accurate details to explain ideas and support the response.    25 | Maintains a very clear focus and is very easy to read.  25 | Sentences are clear and complete.  While a few minor errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics may be present, they do not interfere with understanding. 25 |
| Score 5  Responses at this scorepoint demonstrate well-developed skill in writing an essay, | Fulfills all requirements of the task and demonstrates a thorough understanding of the topic and at least more than one perspective.      23 | Effectively uses sufficient details to explain ideas and support the response.    23 | Maintains a clear focus and is easy to read.        23 | Sentences are usually complete.  While a few minor errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics may be present, they do not interfere much with understanding.  23 |
| Score 4  Responses at this score point demonstrate an adequate skill in writing an essay. | Fulfills some requirements of the task and demonstrates a some understanding of the topic and at least one perspective.  21 | Uses some details to explain ideas and support the response.    21 | Maintains a fairly clear focus and is somewhat easy to read.        21 | Most sentences are clear and complete.  A few minor errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics may interfere somewhat with understanding. 21 |
| Score 3  Responses at this score point demonstrate an developing skill in writing an essay. | Fulfills few requirements of the task and demonstrates a some understanding of the topic.  18 | Uses few details to explain ideas and support the response.  18 | Attempts to maintain a clear focus but may be somewhat difficult to read.  18 | Uses many simple sentences and some sentence fragments.  Errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics interfere with understanding.  18 |
| Score 2  Responses at this score point demonstrate weak or inconsistent skill in writing an essay. | Fulfills a few requirements of the task and demonstrates little understanding of the topic.  15 | Uses few details to explain ideas and response is not supported.  15 | Does not establish a clear focus and is difficult to read.  15 | Many incomplete sentences or run-ons.  Errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics are abundant and make the essay difficult to read.  15 |
| Score 1  Responses at this score point demonstrate an little or no skill skill in writing an essay. | Does not fulfill requirements of the task and demonstrates a very little understanding of the topic.  12 | Support is incomplete or no evidences are given.  12 | Does not establish a clear focus and is very difficult to read.    12 | Errors in word choice, grammar, and mechanics make the writing almost impossible to read.  12 |