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| **Categories and**  **Qualities** | **Excellent/A**  **Max points possible 12** | **Proficient/B**  **Max points possible 10** | **Competent/C**  **Max points possible 9** | **Novice/F**  **Max points possible 7** |  |
| **Content**  Develops an essay that presents a **focused response to the writing assignment**, making **appropriate and coherent connections** among all parts of the assignment. | **4**  Addresses the writing assignment fully, analytically, and perhaps critically or imaginatively with superior focus and coherence. | **3**  Addresses all parts of the writing assignment with adequate focus and coherence throughout. | **3**  Addresses all or most parts of the writing assignment adequately, but focus may lapse briefly or connection may be missing. | **2**  Addresses some parts of the writing assignment **or** addresses all parts superficially; focus or coherence may break down at several points. |  |
| **Development**  Ideas are **clearly organized**, paragraphs presents a **clear purpose** with **appropriate explanations and illustrations.** | **3**  Astute analysis and perceptive explanations of ideas and observations. Effective and compelling use of references from the writer’s readings and own experiences as supporting examples and illustrations. | **2**  Explains ideas and assertions completely with adequate and relevant use of support from the writer’s readings and experiences. | **2**  Explains ideas and assertions fully, although discussion may lapse in focus or supporting examples may be weakly connected or at times incomplete or irrelevant. | **2**  Some ideas in paragraphs may be connected, but explanation or clarification may be weak or missing; use of examples may be incomplete, irrelevant or missing. |  |
| **Documentation & Reading Comprehension**  **Incorporates**, as support for own thoughts, **references** to the texts, **identifying the sources** formally or informally.  Demonstrates understanding of the texts through **summary**, **analysis and explanation** of relevant material. | **3**  Makes insightful connections and distinctions between readings and own ideas; integrates references smoothly into own essay and identifies them consistently and correctly.  Demonstrates superior and perhaps critical understanding of readings through accurate summary, full explanation, and insightful analysis of relevant sections. | **3**  Makes and explains appropriate connections between readings and own ideas, identifies references consistently and correctly.  Demonstrates overall understanding of readings through appropriate summary and explanation, with some analysis. | **2**  Makes some connections between readings and own ideas but they may not all be appropriate or adequately explained; identifies most references consistently and correctly.  Demonstrates generally accurate understanding of readings although summary or explanation may be incomplete or not fully relevant. | **2**  Makes few or unwarranted connections between readings and own ideas; may identify references inconsistently or incorrectly.  Demonstrates partial understanding of the readings through summary or explanation, but understanding is flawed or explanation is incomplete. |  |
| **Language**  Communicates **clearly and effectively with a minimum of clutter**, using appropriate conventions of language (e.g., **grammar, spelling, punctuation**). | **2**  Communicates with precision and enhanced expression through highly effective use of vocabulary and sentence variety; infrequent, if any, lapses in use of conventions. | **2**  Communicates clearly throughout the essay; sentences may contain some lapses in use of conventions, but these rarely impede comprehension. | **2**  Generally communicates clearly throughout the essay although lapses in use of conventions may at times impede comprehension or prove distracting. | **1**  Communicates clearly at times, showing some ability to use conventions, but whole sections are unclear or errors frequently impede comprehension. |  |
| **Total** |  | | | |  |

**Created by Dr. Robin Ford 2013**