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| 4 Point General Scoring Guide |
| Score | Criteria | Category |
| A/4 | Essays earning a 4 effectively demonstrate understanding of the task in the prompt. The writer’s interpretation or argument is convincing and clearly supports the position. The writer’s interpretation or argument is convincing and has effective support from the source material, observation, or experiences. The writing style demonstrates an ability to control a wide range of the elements of effective writing but may not be flawless. | Meets/Exceeds Expectations | Successful |
| B/3 | Essays earning a 3 adequately take a position that demonstrates understanding of the task in the prompt. The writer’s interpretation or argument is generally convincing and supports the position, but lacks sophistication or is less coherent than essays receiving a higher score. Though the language may contain lapses in diction or syntax, overall the prose is clear and understandable, demonstrating an ability to control the elements of effective writing. | Meets Expectations |
| C/2 | Essays earning a 2 inadequately demonstrate understanding of the task in the prompt. They attempt to present an interpretation or argument and support their position, but may misunderstand, misrepresent, or oversimplify either their own interpretation or argument along with the support they include. The link between the interpretation or argument and the support is weak. The writing style of 2 essays may suggest immature control of writing. | Approaching Expectations | Unsuccessful |
| D/1 | Essays earning a 1 do not demonstrate success in understanding the task in the prompt. They may merely allude to knowledge gained from reading the sources rather than citing the sources themselves. These essays may misread the sources, fail to present an argument, or substitute a simpler task by merely responding to the question tangentially or by summarizing the sources. The writing style of these essays often demonstrates consistent weaknesses in writing, such as a lack of development or organization, grammatical problems, or lack of control. | Not Meeting Expectations |
| F/0 | Essays earning a 0 merely repeat the prompt or are completely off topic. | Off Topic |