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| Understand and Analyze Context | *0 pts*  The response either provides no context. OR The response makes simplistic references to or general statements about the context of the research question. 0 Pts | | 5pts  The response explains the significance or importance of the research question by situating it within a larger context. |
| Establish Argument | 0pts  The response provides only unsubstantiated opinions or claims. OR The response summarizes information (no argument). The response employs inadequate reasoning due to minimal connections between claims and evidence. | 8pts  The argument presents a claim with some flaws in reasoning. The response is logically organized, but the reasoning may be faulty or underdeveloped OR The response may be well- reasoned but illogical in its organization. The conclusion may be only partially related to the research question or thesis. | 12pts  The response is a clear and convincing argument. The response is logically organized and well reasoned by connecting claims and evidence, leading to a plausible, well aligned conclusion |
| Select and Use Evidence | *0 pts* Any evidence presented in the response is predominantly irrelevant and/or lacks credibility | *6 pts*  The response includes mostly relevant and credible evidence. | 9pts  The response includes relevant, credible and sufficient evidence to support its argument |
| Apply Conventions Citation | 0pts The response is missing a bibliography/works cited OR the response is largely missing in-text citations/ footnotes. | 3pts The response attributes or cites sources used through the use of in-text citations or footnotes, but not always accurately. The bibliography or works cited references sources using a generally consistent style with some errors. | 5pts The response attributes, accurately cites and integrates the sources used through the use of in-text citations or footnotes. The bibliography or works cited accurately references sources using a consistent style. |
| Apply Conventions Grammar and Style | *0 pts* The response has many grammatical flaws, is difficult to understand, or is written in a style inappropriate for an academic audience. | *2 pts* The response is mostly clear but may contain some flaws in grammar or a few instances of a style inappropriate for an academic audience | 3pts The response creates variety, emphasis, and interest to the reader through the use of effective sentences and precision of word choice. The written style is consistently appropriate for an academic audience, although the response may have a few errors in grammar and style. |
| Evaluate Solution | *0 pts* The response does not identify or only minimally identifies solutions. | *2 pts* The response describes limitations or implications of the solution but in an inconsistent, illogical, overly broad, or otherwise unconvincing manner | *4 pts* The response evaluates the solution by thoroughly explaining its limitations or implications |