

Criterion	4 – Excellent <i>Shows control and skill in this trait; many strengths present</i>	3 – Acceptable <i>The strengths outweigh the weaknesses</i>	2 – Developing <i>The weaknesses outweigh the strengths</i>	1 – Beginning <i>Isolated moments hint at what the writer has in mind</i>
Summarizes the problem, question, or issue	Clearly identifies the challenge and subsidiary, embedded, or implicit aspects of the issue. Identifies integral relationships essential to analyzing the issue	Summarizes issue, though some aspects are incorrect or confused. Nuances and key details are missing or glossed over.		Fails to identify and summarize accurately.
Considers context, audience, assumptions	Analyzes the issue with a clear sense of scope and context, including an assessment of audience. Identifies influence of context. Questions assumptions, addressing ethical dimensions underlying the issue.	Presents and explores relevant contexts and assumptions, although in a limited way. Analysis includes some outside verification, but primarily relies on authorities. Provides some consideration of assumptions and their implications.		Approach to the issue is in egocentric and socio-centric terms. Does not relate to other contexts. Analysis is grounded in absolutes, with little acknowledgement of own biases. Does not recognize context and underlying ethical implications.
Communicates own perspective, hypothesis, position	Position demonstrates ownership. Appropriately identifies own position, drawing support from experience and information not from assigned sources. Justifies own view while integrating contrary interpretations. Hypothesis demonstrates sophisticated thought.	Presents own position, which includes some original thinking, though inconsistently. Justifies own position without addressing other views or does so superficially. Position is generally clear, although gaps may exist.		Position is clearly adopted with little consideration. Addresses a single view of the argument, failing to clarify the position relative to one's own. Fails to justify own opinion. Hypothesis is unclear or simplistic.
Evaluates evidence	Not only identifies and rigorously evaluates all important evidence offered, but also provides new data or information for consideration.	Identifies all important evidence and rigorously evaluates it.	Successfully identifies data and information that counts as evidence but fails to thoroughly evaluate its credibility.	Fails to identify data and information that counts as evidence for truth-claims and fails to evaluate its credibility.
Analyzes supporting data and evidence	Contains evidence of source evaluation skills. Examines evidence and questions accuracy and relevance. Recognizes bias. Sequence of presentation reflects clear organization of ideas, subordinating for importance and impact.	Demonstrates adequate skill in selecting and evaluating sources to meet information need. Use of evidence is selective. Discerns fact from opinion and may recognize bias. Appropriate evidence is provided although exploration in routine.		Contains no evidence of selection or source evaluation skills. Repeats information without question or dismisses evidence without justification. Does not distinguish between fact and opinion. Evidence is simplistic, inappropriate, or not related to topic.
Assesses conclusions, implications, consequences	Identifies and discusses conclusions, implications, and consequences. Considers context, assumptions, and evidence. Qualifies own assertions. Consequences are considered and integrated. Implications are developed and ambiguities are considered.	Conclusions consider evidence of consequences extending beyond a single issue. Presents implications that may impact other people or issues. Presents conclusions as only loosely related to consequences. Implications may include vague reference to conclusions.		Fails to identify conclusions, implications, and consequences, or conclusion is a simplistic summary. Conclusions are absolute, and may attribute conclusion to external authority.
Synthesis and transference	Shows evidence of understanding the big picture and how it transfers to other situations.	Shows some evidence of understanding the big picture and how it transfers to other situations.		Shows no evidence of understanding the big picture and how it transfers to other situations.