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| Format | 5) Meets Standard  Student writes a 6-paragraph essay. Essay includes an intro paragraph, four body paragraphs, and a conclusion. | 3) Approaches Standard  Student writes a 3-paragraph essay. Essay includes an intro, body, and conclusion. The student fails to break up the body paragraphs. | 1) Falls Well Short of Standard  Student makes no attempt to write a well-constructed essay. |
| Claim | 5) Meets Standard  The student clearly states their claim. The reader is able to clearly tell what side of the argument the writer comes out on. | 3) Approaches Standard  The student does not clearly state their claim. The reader is not able to clearly tell what side of the argument the writer comes out on. | 1. Falls Well Short of Standard   The student makes no attempt to state their claim. The reader is left in the dark as to what side of the argument the writer comes out on. |
| Supporting Detail | 10) Meets Standard  The student references three supporting details to defend their argument. One individual paragraph is devoted to each supporting detail. | 5) Approaches Standard  The student references 1-2 supporting details to defend their argument. | 3) Falls Well Short of Standard  The student makes no attempt to defend their argument with supporting details. |
| Counter Claim | 5) Meets Standard  The student fairly and fully references one opposing argument. One individual paragraph is devoted to the counter claim. | 3) Approaches Standard  The student attempts to fairly and fully reference one opposing argument, but falls short. | 1. Falls Well Short of Standard   The student makes no attempt to reference one opposing argument. |
| Historical Accuracy | 10) Meets Standard  The student maintains historical accuracy throughout their essay. | 5) Approaches Standard  The student attempts to maintain historical accuracy throughout their essay, but falls short. | 3) Falls Well Short of Standard  The student makes no attempt to maintain historical accuracy throughout their essay. |
| Mechanics | 5) Meets Standard  The student make few to no errors in terms of spelling, grammar, etc. | 3) Approaches Standard  The student frequently makes errors in terms of spelling, grammar, etc. | 1) Falls Well Short of Standard  The student makes several errors in terms of spelling, grammar, etc. These errors are so frequent that they distract the reader from the writing. |

Suggested format to be followed: (each bullet point denotes a new paragraph)

* Introduction
* Supporting Detail 1
* Supporting Detail 2
* Supporting Detail 3
* Counter Claim
* Conclusion