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| CATEGORY | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | NS/O |
| Content: Focus | Topic/subject is clear, though it may/may not be explicitly stated. | Topic/subject is generally clear though it may not be explicitly stated. | Topic/subject may be vague. | Topic/subject is unclear or confusing. | Composition is entirely illegible or otherwise unscorable; including restatements of the prompt and responses that are off-topic or incoherent. |
| Content: Organization | Organizational structure establishes relationship between/  Among ideas/events. | Organizational structure establishes relationships between ideas/events, although minor lapses may be present | Organizational structure establishes some relationship between/ among some of the ideas/events. The structure is minimally complete. | Organizational structure does not establish connection between/ among ideas/ events. The overall structure is incomplete or confusing. | Composition is entirely illegible or otherwise unscorable; including restatements of the prompt and responses that are off-topic or incoherent. |
| Content: Support | Support information is related to and supportive of the topic/subject. | Support information has minor weaknesses in relatedness and/or support of the topic/subject | Support information has major weaknesses in relatedness to and/or support of the topic/subject | An attempt has been made to add support information, but it was unrelated or confusing. | Composition is entirely illegible or otherwise unscorable; including restatements of the prompt and responses that are off-topic or incoherent. |
| Content: Style | Demonstrates skillful sentence fluency (varies length, food flow, rhythm & varied structure) | Demonstrates reasonable sentence fluency | Demonstrates minimal sentence fluency. | Sentence fluency is lacking. | Composition is entirely illegible or otherwise unscorable; including restatements of the prompt and responses that are off-topic or incoherent. |
| Content:  Elaboration | Elaboration consists of specific, developed details. | Elaboration consists of some specific details. | Elaboration consists of general and/or undeveloped details, which may be presented in a list-like fashion. | Elaboration is sparse; almost no details. | Composition is entirely illegible or otherwise unscorable; including restatements of the prompt and responses that are off-topic or incoherent. |