

THESIS	<b>0 POINTS</b>		<b>1 POINT</b>			
	<p><b>4.B</b> For any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ There is no defensible thesis.</li> <li>○ The intended thesis only restates the prompt.</li> <li>○ The intended thesis provides a summary of the issue with no apparent or coherent claim.</li> <li>○ There is a thesis, but it does not respond to the prompt.</li> </ul>	<p>Responds to the prompt with a defensible thesis that analyzes the writer's rhetorical choices.</p>				
<b>DECISION RULES AND SCORING NOTES</b>						
<p>Responses that do not earn this point:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only restate the prompt.</li> <li>• Do not take a position, or the position is vague or must be inferred.</li> <li>• Equivocate or summarize other's arguments but not the student's (e.g., some people say it's good, some people say it's bad).</li> <li>• State an obvious fact rather than making a claim that requires a defense.</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional Notes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The thesis may be more than one sentence, provided the sentences are in close proximity.</li> <li>• The thesis may be anywhere within the response.</li> <li>• For a thesis to be defensible, the sources must include at least minimal evidence that could be used to support that thesis; however, the student need not cite that evidence to earn the thesis point.</li> <li>• The thesis may establish a line of reasoning that structures the essay, but it needn't do so to earn the thesis point</li> <li>• A thesis that meets the criteria can be awarded the point whether or not the rest of the response successfully supports that line of reasoning.</li> </ul>		<p>Responses that earn this point:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Respond to the prompt rather than restate or rephrase the prompt, and the thesis clearly takes a position rather than just stating that there are pros/cons.</li> </ul>				
EVIDENCE AND COMMENTARY	<b>0 POINTS</b>	<b>1 POINT</b>	<b>2 POINTS</b>	<b>3 POINTS</b>	<b>4 POINTS</b>	
	<p><b>2.A</b> <b>4.A</b> <b>6.A</b> <b>6.B</b> <b>6.C</b></p> <p>Simply restates thesis (if present), repeats provided information, or references fewer than two of the provided sources.</p>	<p><b>EVIDENCE:</b> Provides evidence from or references at least two of the provided sources.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>AND</b></p> <p><b>COMMENTARY:</b> Summarizes the evidence but does not explain how the evidence supports the student's argument.</p>	<p><b>EVIDENCE:</b> Provides evidence from or references at least three of the provided sources.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>AND</b></p> <p><b>COMMENTARY:</b> Explains how some of the evidence relates to the student's argument, but no line of reasoning is established, or the line of reasoning is faulty.</p>	<p><b>EVIDENCE:</b> Provides specific evidence from at least three of the provided sources to support all claims in a line of reasoning.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>AND</b></p> <p><b>COMMENTARY:</b> Explains how some of the evidence supports a line of reasoning.</p>	<p><b>EVIDENCE:</b> Provides specific evidence from at least three of the provided sources to support all claims in a line of reasoning.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>AND</b></p> <p><b>COMMENTARY:</b> Consistently explains how the evidence supports a line of reasoning.</p>	
	<b>DECISION RULES AND SCORING NOTES</b>					
<p>Typical responses that earn 0 points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are incoherent and do not address the prompt.</li> <li>• May be just opinion with no textual references or references that are irrelevant.</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional Notes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Writing that suffers from grammatical and/or mechanical errors that interfere with communication cannot earn the fourth point in this row.</li> </ul>		<p>Typical responses that earn 1 point:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tend to focus on summary or description of sources rather than specific details.</li> </ul>	<p>Typical responses that earn 2 points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consist of a mix of specific evidence and broad generalities.</li> <li>• May contain some simplistic, inaccurate, or repetitive explanations that don't strengthen the argument.</li> <li>• May make one point well, but either do not make multiple supporting claims or do not adequately support more than one claim.</li> <li>• Do not explain the connections or progression between the student's claims, so a line of reasoning is not clearly established.</li> </ul>	<p>Typical responses that earn 3 points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uniformly offer evidence to support claims.</li> <li>• Focus on the importance of specific words and details from the sources to build an argument.</li> <li>• Organize an argument as a line of reasoning composed of multiple supporting claims.</li> <li>• Commentary may fail to integrate some evidence or fail to support a key claim</li> </ul>	<p>Typical responses that earn 4 points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uniformly offer evidence to support claims.</li> <li>• Focus on the importance of specific words and details from the sources to build an argument.</li> <li>• Organize and support an argument as a line of reasoning composed of multiple supporting claims, each with adequate evidence that is clearly explained.</li> </ul>	
SOPHISTICATION	<b>0 POINTS</b>		<b>1 POINT</b>			
	<p><b>2.A</b> <b>4.C</b> <b>6.B</b> <b>8.A</b> <b>8.B</b> <b>8.C</b></p> <p>Does not meet the criteria for 1 point.</p> <p>Responses that do not earn this point:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attempt to contextualize their argument, but such attempts consist predominantly of sweeping generalizations.</li> <li>• Only hint at or suggest other arguments.</li> <li>• Use complicated or complex sentences or language that are ineffective because they do not enhance the argument.</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional Notes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This point should be awarded only if the sophistication of thought or complex understanding is part of the student's argument, not merely a phrase or reference</li> </ul>	<b>DECISION RULES AND SCORING NOTES</b>			<p>Demonstrates sophistication of thought and/or a complex understanding of the rhetorical situation.</p> <p>Responses that earn this point may demonstrate sophistication of thought and/or a complex understanding of the rhetorical situation by doing any of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Crafting a nuanced argument by consistently identifying and exploring complexities or tensions across the sources.</li> <li>2. Articulating the implications or limitations of an argument (either the student's argument or arguments conveyed in the sources) by situating it within a broader context.</li> <li>3. Making effective rhetorical choices that consistently strengthen the force and impact of the student's argument throughout the response.</li> <li>4. Employing a style that is consistently vivid and persuasive.</li> </ol>	

THESIS

EVIDENCE AND COMMENTARY

SOPHISTICATED

0 POINTS		1 POINT			
<p><b>1.A</b> <b>4.B</b></p> <p>For any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is no defensible thesis.</li> <li>The intended thesis only restates the prompt.</li> <li>The intended thesis provides a summary of the issue with no apparent or coherent claim.</li> <li>There is a thesis, but it does not respond to the prompt.</li> </ul>	<p>Responds to the prompt with a defensible thesis that analyzes the writer's rhetorical choices.</p>				
	<p><b>DECISION RULES AND SCORING NOTES</b></p> <p>Responses that do not earn this point:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only restate the prompt.</li> <li>Fail to address the rhetorical choices the writer of the passage makes.</li> <li>Describe or repeat the passage rather than making a claim that requires a defense.</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional Notes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The thesis may be more than one sentence, provided the sentences are in close proximity.</li> <li>The thesis may be anywhere within the response.</li> <li>For a thesis to be defensible, the passage must include at least minimal evidence that could be used to support that thesis; however, the student need not cite that evidence to earn the thesis point.</li> <li>The thesis <i>may</i> establish a line of reasoning that structures the essay, but it needn't do so to earn the thesis point.</li> <li>A thesis that meets the criteria can be awarded the point whether or not the rest of the response successfully supports that line of reasoning.</li> </ul>				<p>Responses that earn this point:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Respond to the prompt rather than restate or rephrase the prompt <u>and</u> clearly articulate a defensible thesis about the rhetorical choices the writer makes.</li> </ul>
0 POINTS		1 POINT	2 POINTS	3 POINTS	4 POINTS
<p><b>1.A</b> <b>2.A</b> <b>4.A</b> <b>6.A</b> <b>6.B</b> <b>6.C</b></p> <p>Simply restates thesis (if present), repeats provided information, or offers information irrelevant to the prompt.</p>	<p><b>EVIDENCE:</b> Provides evidence that is mostly general.</p> <p><b>AND</b></p> <p><b>COMMENTARY:</b> Summarizes the evidence but does not explain how the evidence supports the student's argument.</p>	<p><b>EVIDENCE:</b> Provides some specific relevant evidence.</p> <p><b>AND</b></p> <p><b>COMMENTARY:</b> Explains how some of the evidence relates to the student's argument, but no line of reasoning is established, or the line of reasoning is faulty.</p>	<p><b>EVIDENCE:</b> Provides specific evidence to support all claims in a line of reasoning.</p> <p><b>AND</b></p> <p><b>COMMENTARY:</b> Explains how some of the evidence supports a line of reasoning.</p> <p><b>AND</b></p> <p>Explains how at least one rhetorical choice in the passage contributes to the writer's argument, purpose, or message.</p>	<p><b>EVIDENCE:</b> Provides specific evidence to support all claims in a line of reasoning.</p> <p><b>AND</b></p> <p><b>COMMENTARY:</b> Consistently explains how the evidence supports a line of reasoning.</p> <p><b>AND</b></p> <p>Explains how multiple rhetorical choices in the passage contribute to the writer's argument, purpose, or message.</p>	
	<p><b>DECISION RULES AND SCORING NOTES</b></p> <p>Typical responses that earn 0 points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Are incoherent or do not address the prompt.</li> <li>May be just opinion with no textual references or references that are irrelevant.</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional Notes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Writing that suffers from grammatical and/or mechanical errors that interfere with communication cannot earn the fourth point in this row.</li> <li>To earn the fourth point in this row, the response may observe multiple instances of the same rhetorical choice if each instance further contributes to the argument, purpose, or message of the passage.</li> </ul>				
0 POINTS		1 POINT			
<p><b>2.A</b> <b>4.C</b> <b>6.B</b> <b>8.A</b> <b>8.B</b> <b>8.C</b></p> <p>Does not meet the criteria for 1 point.</p>	<p>Responds to the prompt with a defensible thesis that analyzes the writer's rhetorical choices.</p>				
	<p><b>DECISION RULES AND SCORING NOTES</b></p> <p>Responses that do not earn this point:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Attempt to contextualize the text, but such attempts consist predominantly of sweeping generalizations.</i></li> <li><i>Only hint at or suggest other arguments.</i></li> <li><i>Examine individual rhetorical choices but do not examine the relationships among different choices throughout the passage.</i></li> <li><i>Oversimplify complexities in the passage.</i></li> <li><i>Use complicated or complex sentences or language that are ineffective because they do not enhance their analysis.</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Additional Notes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This point should be awarded only if the demonstration of sophistication or complex understanding is part of the argument, not merely a phrase or reference.</li> </ul>				<p>Responses that earn this point may demonstrate sophistication of thought and/or a complex understanding of the rhetorical situation by doing any of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explaining the significance or relevance of the writer's rhetorical choices (given the rhetorical situation).</li> <li>Explaining a purpose or function of the passage's complexities or tensions.</li> <li>Employing a style that is consistently vivid and persuasive throughout the student's response</li> </ol>

<b>THESIS</b>	<b>0 POINTS</b>		<b>1 POINT</b>							
	<p><b>4.B</b> For any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is no defensible thesis.</li> <li>The intended thesis only restates the prompt.</li> <li>The intended thesis provides a summary of the issue with no apparent or coherent claim.</li> <li>There is a thesis, but it does not respond to the prompt.</li> </ul>	<p>Responses that do not earn this point:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only restate the prompt.</li> <li>Do not take a position, or the position is vague or must be inferred.</li> <li>State an obvious fact rather than making a claim that requires a defense.</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional Notes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The thesis may be more than one sentence, provided the sentences are in close proximity.</li> <li>The thesis may be anywhere within the response.</li> <li>The thesis <i>may</i> establish a line of reasoning that structures the essay, but it needn't do so to earn the thesis point.</li> <li>A thesis that meets the criteria can be awarded the point whether or not the rest of the response successfully supports that line of reasoning.</li> </ul>		<p>Responds to the prompt with a thesis that presents a defensible position.</p>						
<b>DECISION RULES AND SCORING NOTES</b>										
<p>Responses that earn this point:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Respond to the prompt rather than restate or rephrase the prompt, <u>and</u> the thesis clearly takes a position rather than just stating that there are pros/cons.</li> </ul>										
<b>EVIDENCE AND COMMENTARY</b>	<b>0 POINTS</b>		<b>1 POINT</b>		<b>2 POINTS</b>		<b>3 POINTS</b>		<b>4 POINTS</b>	
	<p><b>2.A</b> <b>4.A</b> <b>6.A</b> <b>6.B</b> <b>6.C</b></p> <p>Simply restates thesis (if present), repeats provided information, or offers information irrelevant to the prompt.</p>	<p><b>EVIDENCE:</b> Provides evidence that is mostly general.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>AND</b></p> <p><b>COMMENTARY:</b> Summarizes the evidence but does not explain how the evidence supports the argument.</p>		<p><b>EVIDENCE:</b> Provides some specific relevant evidence.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>AND</b></p> <p><b>COMMENTARY:</b> Explains how some of the evidence relates to the student's argument, but no line of reasoning is established, or the line of reasoning is faulty.</p>		<p><b>EVIDENCE:</b> Provides specific evidence to support all claims in a line of reasoning.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>AND</b></p> <p><b>COMMENTARY:</b> Explains how some of the evidence supports a line of reasoning.</p>		<p><b>EVIDENCE:</b> Provides specific evidence to support all claims in a line of reasoning.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>AND</b></p> <p><b>COMMENTARY:</b> Consistently explains how the evidence supports a line of reasoning.</p>		
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<b>SOPHISTICATION</b>	<b>0 POINTS</b>					<b>1 POINT</b>				
	<p><b>2.A</b> <b>4.C</b> <b>6.B</b> <b>8.A</b> <b>8.B</b> <b>8.C</b></p> <p>Does not meet the criteria for 1 point.</p>					<p>Demonstrates sophistication of thought and/or a complex understanding of the rhetorical situation.</p>				
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<p>Responses that do not earn this point:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attempt to contextualize their argument, but such attempts consist predominantly of sweeping generalizations.</li> <li>Only hint at or suggest other arguments.</li> <li>Use complicated or complex sentences or language that are ineffective because they do not enhance the argument.</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional Notes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This point should be awarded only if the demonstration of sophistication or complex understanding is part of the argument, not merely a phrase or reference.</li> </ul>					<p>Responses that earn this point may demonstrate sophistication of thought and/or a complex understanding of the rhetorical situation by doing any of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Crafting a nuanced argument by consistently identifying and exploring complexities or tensions.</li> <li>Articulating the implications or limitations of an argument (either the student's argument or an argument related to the prompt) by situating it within a broader context.</li> <li>Making effective rhetorical choices that consistently strengthen the force and impact of the student's argument.</li> <li>Employing a style that is consistently vivid and persuasive throughout the student's response.</li> </ol>					