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| | Lacks clear sense of direction Ideas strung together in loose or random fashion | | reader through logic of analysis Smooth, professional transitions from each part of the paper to the next Paragraphs and ideas fit together for internal coherence |
| Conclusion | Writing just “ends” without any conclusion Conclusion is confusing or not logical Confusion merely repeats introduction | Provides logical conclusion with summary, but fails to synthesize main points or assert significance of the paper’s content | Provides a clear, convincing conclusion section that synthesizes and extends the main points of the rest of the paper Goes beyond summarizing what was already said and brings a sense of completion to the discussion Asserts the significance of the paper or the argument presented |

SUBSTANTIVE IDEAS AND CONTENT

Development of

Argument/Analysis
Evidence is offered, but lacks interpretation/integration
Consists of quotes strung together without adequate interpretation and thinking on the part of the student

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| | | | Writing demonstrates reflective thought on this topic has occurred Level of analysis/thinking results in nuanced discussion with practical relevance |
| Comprehensive Discussion | Numerous examples of not following instructions/assignment Lack of attention to detail throughout | Followed assignment, but lacks either comprehensiveness or attention to detail | Comprehensive, thoughtful, thorough discussion with the content responsive to the assignment |

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| MECHANICS | Grammar and Spelling | Numerous and significant errors in grammar/spelling which interfere with comprehension and distract from the message | Writing contains some errors in grammar/spelling Appears spell-checked, but missed a typo or two | Employs appropriate grammar and spelling without error |
| | Vocabulary and Word Choice | Fails to use appropriate vocabulary or terminology, or uses them incorrectly Word choice inappropriate for intended audience Inappropriate use of “casual language” and clichés | Adequate vocabulary, but lacks some sophistication or precision | Utilizes sophisticated vocabulary with precise word choice that enhances overall meaning Integrates terminology from the discipline |
| | Sentence Structure | Poorly developed sentences Sentences don't express 2refHces | | |

