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| **WRITING STRATEGICALLY:** IDEAS  **Introduction** | **You state a claim or claims.**  You have an unclear thesis statement.  You do not have an attention grabber.  You do not have a TAG line. | **You clearly state a claim.**  You have a thesis statement, but there is at least one item missing in the introduction. | **Your claim has been distinguished from alternate or opposing claims.**  Your introduction has a hook, but it doesn't really grab your attention, and it has a thesis statement. | **You state a precise claim.**  Your introduction has a strong attention grabber, a TAG line, and a strong thesis statement. Your thesis is direct, precise, and easy to understand. |
| **WRITING STRATEGICALLY:**  TEXT SUPPORT  &  CRITICAL THINKING  **Body Paragraphs** | **Your response is supported by evidence from the text.**  Your evidence is lacking and more textual supports (direct quotes from the literature) are needed. You have not analyzed or critically thought about the literature or connected it to anything. | **Your response draws on several pieces of evidence from the text.**  Your evidence (quote) does not support your thesis statement well. You lack explanation of the evidence. You lack analysis and critical thinking about the literature. | **Your response is supported by evidence that most strongly supports your conclusions.** Your arguments are supported with evidence (quotes). You included explanations to support your evidence, but your commentary isn't strong. You have analyzed the literature with your own critical thinking. | **Your response draws upon evidence from the text purposefully and efficiently.**  Your arguments are extremely strong and well- supported with evidence and explanations. Your commentary on the evidence clearly supports your thesis statement and reaches beyond the text to connect to the real world. You have analyzed the literature through your own critical thinking and generated new and innovative ideas and interpretations. |
| **WRITING STRATEGICALLY:**  ORGANIZATION  &  COMMUNICATION | **You organize ideas in an identifiable strategy.**  You have distinct paragraphs, including an introduction, body, and conclusion. | **You organize ideas using an effective strategy.**  Body paragraphs include point sentences, support, and explanation. | **Your organization clearly distinguishes one idea from another.**  Body paragraphs include clear and distinct point sentences, support from the literature, and explanation. | **Your organization establishes clear relationships amongst the ideas.**  Body paragraphs include clear and distinct point sentences, support from the text that clearly and smoothly connects to the point, and explanation that ties back to the thesis statement and reaches beyond the literature to the real world. |
| **WRITING STRATEGICALLY:**  CONCLUSION | **You add a concluding statement or section that follows the content presented.**  The conclusion just ends.  No application to the real world.  No explanation of why the topics covered matter.  No connection to the introduction. | **Your conclusion supports the content presented.** The text is summed up with nothing else added.  Little to no application to the real world or explanation of why your topics matter. | **Your conclusion suggests the importance of the topic.**  The conclusion is recognizable and sums it up, but it doesn't bring it full circle with the introduction.  The importance of your topics in the real world is mentioned, but not explained well. | **Your conclusion articulates the implications or the significance of the topic.**  The conclusion is strong and leaves the reader solidly understanding the writer's position. You have restated your thesis statement. The conclusion comes full circle with the introduction, applies concepts to the real world, and explains why they matter. |
| **WRITING STRATEGICALLY:**  WRITING PROCESS  **Language Usage and Conventions** | **Your writing has been developed and strengthened by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach. Some guidance and support are used.**  Your errors interfere with the meaning of your essay. | **With some guidance, you use the writing process to address your purpose and audience.**  Your errors make your essay difficult to read. | **Your writing process focuses on how well you address your purpose and audience.**  You have some errors. Your paragraphs are set up correctly. | **Your writing process focuses on what is most significant for your specific purpose and audience.**  It is obvious that you proofread your essay multiple times. There are little to no errors and your paragraphs are set up correctly. |