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| Grade | Research | Grammar | Content | Organization | References |
| 20 | Information show significant amount of reading and research online or by asking people. | Essay is free of distracting spelling, punctuation, and grammatical errors; absent of fragments, comma splices, and run-ons. | Content indicates synthesis of ideas, in-depth analysis and evidences original thought and support for the topic. | Writing shows high degree of attention to logic and reasoning of points. Unity clearly leads the reader to the conclusion and stirs thought regarding the topic. | APA style referencing with adequate format and more than four resources. |
| 15 | A reasonable amount of independent research has been done but there is nothing outstanding in the information provided. | Essay has few spelling, punctuation, and grammatical errors allowing reader to follow ideas clearly. Very few fragments or run-ons. | Content indicates original thinking and develops ideas with sufficient and firm evidence. | Writing is coherent and logically organized with transitions used between ideas and paragraphs to create coherence. Overall unity of ideas is present. | APA style with problems in format or less than three resources. |
| 10 | A minimum amount of independent, scholarly research was undertaken. The research is weak and unoriginal. | Most spelling, punctuation, and grammar allows reader to progress though essay. Some errors remain. | Content indicates thinking and reasoning applied with original thought on a few ideas. | Writing is coherent and logically organized. Some points remain misplaced and stray from the topic. Transitions evident but not used throughout essay. | References exist with no style or format. |
| 5 | Less than the minimum amount of independent, scholarly research was undertaken. Research is weak and unoriginal and fails to adequately support the argument. | Spelling, punctuation, and grammatical errors create distraction, making reading difficult; fragments, comma splices, run-ons evident. Errors are frequent. | Shows some thinking and reasoning but most ideas are underdeveloped and unoriginal. | Writing lacks logical organization. It shows some coherence but ideas lack unity. Serious errors. | No referencing only some links put as they are. |