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| **6** |

• A **powerful** **introduction and thesis**, organized in a purposeful and effective manner, is clearly developed throughout• The essay demonstrates a **very good** **knowledge and understanding** of the topic studied. Where appropriate, the essay successfully outlines an academic context for the investigation.• **Ideas** are presented clearly and in a logical and coherent manner. The essay succeeds in developing a **reasoned and convincing argument** in relation to the research question.• An **imaginative range of** **appropriate sources** has been consulted, or data has been gathered, and relevant material has been carefully selected. The investigation has been well planned.• **Expression** **is** **clear and fluent**; errors are rare and do not impede meaning. Style and voice are evident. Terminology appropriate to the subject is used accurately, with skill and understanding. |
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| **5** |

• A relevant introduction and thesis, organized in a clear and regular manner, provides direction throughout• The essay demonstrates a **good knowledge** and understanding of the topic studied. The essay shows some awareness of an academic context for the investigation.• **Ideas** are presented in a logical and coherent manner, and a reasoned argument is developed in relation to the research question, but with some weaknesses.• A **sufficient range of appropriate sources** has been consulted, or data has been gathered, and relevant material has been selected. The investigation has been satisfactorily planned.• **Expression is generally fluent**; errors are infrequent and do not impede meaning. Attempts style and voice. The use of terminology appropriate to the subject is accurate, although there may be occasional lapses. |
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| **4** |

• **Introduction and thesis are adequate** and provide some direction, generally organized in a purposeful manner• The essay demonstrates an **adequate knowledge** and some understanding of the topic studied. There might be some references to academic context.• There is **some attempt to present ideas in a logical and coherent manner**, and to develop a reasoned argument in relation to the research question, but this is only partially successful.• A **limited range of appropriate sources** has been consulted, or data has been gathered, and some relevant material has been selected. There is evidence of some planning in the investigation.• **Expression is fluent; noticeable errors may impede meaning**. Some attempts to use terminology appropriate to the subject, which are partly accurate. |
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| **3** |

• **Introduction and thesis are** **attempted**, but provide little benefit• The essay demonstrates **some knowledge but little understanding** of the topic studied. • There is a **limited or superficial attempt to present ideas** in a logical and coherent manner, and to develop a reasoned argument in relation to the research question.• **Basic sources** have been consulted, however with minimal engagement. There is little evidence of planning in the investigation.• **Expression is simplistic; frequent errors impede meaning**. There is no effective use of terminology appropriate to the subject. |
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| **2** |

• Introduction and thesis are inadequate or inaccurate• The essay demonstrates **inadequate knowledge and understanding** of the topic studied. • There is **no attempt to develop a reasoned argument** in relation to the research question.• An **inadequate** number of sources has been consulted.• Expression is awkward; errors impede meaning |
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| **1** |

• Introduction and thesis are essentially absent• The essay demonstrates no real knowledge or understanding of the topic studied. Completely irrelevant. • No argument is made at all; argument is offensive or inappropriate• An little or no evidence of research.• Expression is unclear and makes understanding difficult |
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| **0** |

• While writing is evident, no attempt has been made to address the topic given or the writing is nonsensical. |

**Formal Presentation**

This criterion assesses the extent to which the layout, organization, appearance and formal elements of the essay consistently follow a standard format. The formal elements are:

* title page
* margins and spacing
* quotations
* citations and bibliography (MLA style)

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| **4** |

The formal presentation is excellent. MLA style guide is used correctly. A relevant and creative title. |
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| **3** |

The formal presentation is generally consistent. Minor issues with spacing or citations. A relevant title that introduces specific topic. |
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| **2** |

The formal presentation lacks in consistency. Significant issues with spacing and/or citations. Title is generic. |
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| **1** |

The formal presentation is poor. “Research Essay”. |
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| **0** |

The formal presentation is unacceptable; the essay exceeds 2,000 words or does not meet the minimum word count of 1500. |

**Total Score: /34**

**Comments:**