1. **Content and Development of Ideas**
* Understanding of assignment goals
* Strength of the guiding claim (thesis) to unify the philosophy’s argument and content
* Support of ideas with ample, specific, logical, and elaborated evidence and illustrations
* Connection and balance between claims and support
* Evidence of understanding and application of moderating purposes and practices
* Evidence of understanding the role of moderation in deliberation
* Sophistication of explanations and insights; personalized beyond sample themes
* Adherence to target word count

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| Excellent | Good | Average | Poor | Unsatisfactory |

1. **Organization**
* Clear and logical sequence of ideas, including the placement of supporting material
* Sensible structure of introduction, arrangement of body, and cohesiveness of conclusion
* Appropriateness of paragraphing, topic sentences, and transitions to guide reader between ideas

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| Excellent | Good | Average | Poor | Unsatisfactory |

1. **Writing Quality**
* Command of language (precision, accuracy, sophistication, and vividness of word choices)
* Use of varied and engaging sentence structure
* Generation of interest
* Appropriateness of style
* Frequency of errors or typos

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| Excellent | Good | Average | Poor | Unsatisfactory |

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