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| Criteria | | 1 | | 2 | | 3 | | 4 | |
| A  Explanation of what is revealing about the era of the Holocaust ( /8) | | Explanation is very brief, unclear or inaccurate. | | Explanation is mostly thoughtful, clear, and accurate but limited in scope: may tend to the descriptive rather than analytical and insightful; little sense of the wider importance | | Paragraph explains clearly and accurately several plausible ideas about what the testimony can tell us about the past with supporting detail; good sense of the wider importance | | Paragraph gives a powerful explanation of ways the testimony illuminates the past with insights that others may not have mentioned ; considerable supporting detail. | |
| B  Explanation of what is revealing about ongoing issues, problems and events (sometimes called resonance) ( /8) | | Ideas are superficial, irrelevant or unclear with little supporting examples or details; there may be inaccuracies. | | Paragraph identifies one or two ideas, although explanation may be overly general, obvious, or unclear; may not consider differences between past and present | | Paragraph clearly identifies and explains several ways that these stories can help us understand situations today but recognizes ways that the modern context is different from the past. | | Paragraph shows insight into ways that these stories help us understand situations today but recognizes the differences between present situations and the past; ideas are unusually inventive and may not have been considered by others. | |
| C  Letter format and layout (See handout of required format) ( /4) | | Improper form used. | | Several parts of the business letter format are missing or incorrectly formatted. | | Some parts are missing or incorrectly formatted; layout is clear and attractive. | | Letter has all required elements; layout is clear and attractive. | |
| D  Style, grammar, and punctuation ( /8) | | Often confusing; tone may be disrespectful; frequent major and minor errors. | | Confusing and awkward in places; respectful tone; several errors but mostly minor. | | Clear; respectful tone; no more than one major error and a few minor errors per page. | | Clear and lively writing; respectful tone; clear organization with smooth transitions; no major errors; few or no minor errors. | |
| E | |  | |  | |  | |  | |
| F | |  | |  | |  | |  | |