

Commentary for Common Patterns Samples

Sample 2: Need for Sleep (4 4 4 4 3 3)

- *Example of clear medium that scores high in rows 5 & 6*
- *Example of report that builds an argument at the expense of reporting out on the research (Row 2)*
- *Example of a report that comments descriptively on source credibility, but does not evaluate evidence (Row 3)*
- *Example of a report with few connections (incremental, block by block with no tight linking of the blocks)*

Row 1: Understand & Analyze Context

The report earned a score of 4 for this row because it provides adequate focus. There is no introduction to narrow the investigation through a lens. Instead, the paper launches into the “Historical Context,” “The Negative Effects of Sleep Deprivation,” “The Scientific Perspective,” etc. It “hops” among perspectives related generally to sleep.

The research does not provide sufficient contextualization. The selection of sources is not wide; news sources largely stand in lieu of academic sources.

Row 2: Understand & Analyze Argument

The report earned a score of 4 for this row because it only occasionally provides analysis, and that analysis tends toward the general.

- Example: “With side effects like these affecting the majority of students today, something needs to be changed”
- The commentary on author’s reasoning is rarely present but rather is commentary on the student promoted argument. This tendency to build an argument rather than trace the argument in the research literature is characteristic of medium-range reports.

Row 3: Evaluate Sources and Evidence

The report earned a score of 4 for this row because the explanation of credibility and relevance is descriptive not analytical, often tautological: “According to UCLA, a prestigious and credible university...” and “According to a well-researched, credible web page that includes many doctoral studies...”

Most descriptions focus on the source but not the actual evidence used. It is characteristic of medium reports that they focus on either the source or the evidence, but not both.

Row 4: Understand & Analyze Perspective

The report earned a score of 4 for this row because it presents some perspectives (e.g., from “students” and “schools”), but makes only general rather than specific connections between the perspectives.

- Example: “...that the later start times will push extra-curricular activities later as well, causing the students to get to bed at a much later hour...”

Incremental perspectives stand-alone throughout the report.

Row 5: Apply Convention (Attribution)

The report earned a score of 3 for this row because works cited page has minor formatting issues, but sources are ultimately accurately and consistently cited.

Internal and external citations match.

Row 6: Apply Conventions (Style)

The report earned 3 points for this row because the writing is clear, and language is appropriate for an academic audience.