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|  |  | Excellent | Proficient | Developing | Beginning |
| **C1** | **Understanding of pillars of sustainability**  **(Resource exploitation, social equity and economic development)** | In addition to demonstrating understanding of at least one of the pillars of sustainability, and noting the uneven economic development, resource exploitation, *or* social inequality that underpin ongoing environmental crises, also demonstrates inquiry, insight, or poses questions. | Demonstrates understanding of the nature of at least one of the pillars of sustainability, noting the uneven economic development, resource exploitation, *or* social inequality that underpin ongoing environmental crises. | Refers explicitly or implicitly to at least one of the pillars of sustainability, but may do so only in passing, or with little evidence of understanding the nature of that pillar that underpin ongoing environmental crises. | Fails to refer, either explicitly or implicitly, to any of the pillars of sustainability that underpin ongoing environmental crises. |
| **C2** | **Awareness of interconnection of pillars of sustainability** | In addition to establishing and explaining connections between at least two pillars, also demonstrates understanding of evolving relationships between/among the pillars. | Establishes and explains connections between at least two pillars of sustainability. | Begins to establish connections between at least two pillars, but connections may be superficial or not adequately explained. | Fails to establish connections between multiple pillars of sustainability. |
| **C3** | **Knowledge of human/environment interaction** | In addition to demonstrating knowledge of *both* human impacts on the environment *and* environmental impact on humans, also incorporates understandings of mutual influences and complex non-linear relationships. | Demonstrates knowledge of *both* human impacts on the environment *and* environmental impact on humans. | Demonstrates knowledge of human impacts on the environment *or* environmental impacts on humans. | Fails to demonstrate knowledge of human impacts on the environment or environmental impacts on humans. |
| **C4** | **Use and application of sustainability-related evidence** | Primarily uses thorough, relevant, and credible sustainability-related evidence to support claims/arguments. | Mostly uses thorough, relevant, and credible sustainability-related evidence to support claims/arguments. | Uses minimal sustainability-related evidence to support claims/arguments. | Fails to use sustainability-related evidence to support claims/arguments or evidence may be minimal, not clearly relevant, or derived from questionable sources. |
| **C5** | **Knowledge of sustainability-related action/policy** | In addition to demonstrating understanding of multiple intersecting policies and/or courses of action necessary to address ongoing environmental crises, also recognizes multiple scales or agents through which such action takes place (e.g., governments, NGOs, community groups, and individuals, and industry). | Demonstrates understanding of multiple intersecting policies and/or courses of action necessary to address ongoing environmental crisis. | Demonstrates understanding of at least one policy and/or courses of action necessary to address ongoing environmental crises. | Fails to demonstrate understanding of policies and/or courses of action necessary to address ongoing environmental crises. |