

Argumentative Essay Rubric

Focus – The response is fully sustained and consistently/purposefully focused.

- Claim is clearly stated, focused, and strongly maintained.
- Essay development targets appropriate purpose, audience, and task.
- Counterclaims are addressed and rebutted.

4 (excellent) 3 (adequate) 2 (insufficient) 1 (minimal) 0 (incoherent)

Organization – The response has a clear and effective organizational structure.

- Transitional strategies are used effectively and consistently to show relationships between and among ideas.
- There is a logical progression of ideas from beginning to end.
- Introduction and conclusion are effective for audience and purpose.
- There are strong connections among ideas with some syntactic variety.

4 (excellent) 3 (adequate) 2 (insufficient) 1 (minimal) 0 (incoherent)

Evidence — The response provides thorough and convincing evidence for the author’s claim, including sources, facts, and details.

- Use of evidence smoothly integrated, comprehensive, relevant, and concrete.
- Sources are appropriately cited within the text of the essay.

4 (excellent) 3 (adequate) 2 (insufficient) 1 (minimal) 0 (incoherent)

Elaboration — The response achieves substantial depth that is specific and relevant, using a variety of elaborative techniques. The response clearly and effectively expresses ideas using precise language. Use of academic and domain-specific vocabulary is clearly appropriate for audience and purpose.

4 (excellent) 3 (adequate) 2 (insufficient) 1 (minimal) 0 (incoherent)

Conventions – The response demonstrates an adequate command of conventions: Some errors in usage and sentence formation may be present, but no systematic pattern of errors; adequate use of punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.

2 (adequate) 1 (obscure; inconsistent) 0 Total _____ /14*

*There are 18 points possible, but 14 is the minimum “proficient” score.

Elements of the Argumentative Essay

Write the question you have to answer: _____?

Copy your **claim** that answers it: _____.

Task: What do you have to do to support your claim? _____

Who is the audience for this essay? _____

Purpose: What do you want the audience to do or believe? _____

Identify one counterclaim you must address: _____

State your rebuttal to that counterclaim: _____

Describe how your essay is organized: _____

Identify three transitions within your essay: _____

Identify a fact that you offer as evidence: _____

Source: Where did you learn this fact? _____

Citation: How did you tell your audience the source? _____

Elaboration: Copy the sentence(s) that explain(s) how or why this fact supports your claim:

Identify an example of precise language in your essay: _____

Identify some domain-specific vocabulary that you used in your essay (not quotations from sources):

Based on the answers above and the comments on the rubric, how will you revise your essay?

Name: _____ Period: _____ Date: _____