

Argumentative Essay Rubric

Name: _____ Score: _____

Criteria	5	4	3	1
Essay Structure	Essay is organized with a clear introduction, at least three reason paragraphs, and a conclusion. The order of the reason paragraphs was chosen to let the argument build	Essay is organized with a clear introduction, at least three reason paragraphs, and a conclusion. The order of the reasons doesn't seem to reflect any specific choice	Essay has an introduction section, reasons with evidence, and a conclusion	Essay is not well organized. It is hard to distinguish an introduction or conclusion section
Introduction	Introductory section provides a strong hook, background, and a clear claim statement. The introduction includes details that preview the rest of the essay.	Introductory section provides a hook, background, and a clear claim statement. The introduction includes some details that preview the rest of the essay.	Introductory includes a claim and a hook or background information; there is some information to preview the rest of the essay	Claim is unclear and/or other components of the introduction are missing
Evidence Paragraphs	All three body paragraphs include specific text evidence with clear credit given to the source; at least two pieces of evidence are direct quotes; all evidence is clearly explained	All three body paragraphs include specific evidence with clear credit given to the source; most evidence is clearly explained	All three body paragraphs include text evidence and at least some give credit to the source; some evidence is explained	Paragraphs are missing text evidence
Conclusion	Essay provides a concluding statement that summarizes the major points and gives new insight	Essay provides a concluding statement that summarizes the major points	Conclusion summarizes some of the main points of the essay	Conclusion is absent or does not address most major points of the essay
Transitions	Uses strong words, transitional phrases and complex sentences to link ideas throughout the essay.	Uses strong words and transitional phrases to link ideas in most of the essay	There are only a few transitional words to link paragraphs and ideas	There are almost no examples of transitional words to link paragraphs and ideas
Conventions	There are no errors in spelling, capitalization, or end punctuation; sources listed at the end of the essay	There are a few minor errors in spelling, capitalization, or end punctuation; sources listed at the end of the essay	There are some major, distracting errors in the essay; at least some sources are listed	There are major errors that make the essay hard to read OR no sources are listed