

Argumentative Essay Rubric

STUDENT		ESSAY TOPIC			DATE
CRITERIA	4 EXEMPLARY	3 PROFICIENT	2 DEVELOPING	1 BEGINNING	SCORE
Claim	A precise, arguable claim stated early and held through the whole essay.	A clear, arguable claim that the essay supports.	The claim is vague, too broad or hard to find.	No claim, or the claim is only a fact or a summary.	
Evidence	Relevant, credible evidence from several sources, quoted and cited accurately.	Relevant evidence from sources supports each reason.	Some evidence, but it is thin, weak or not cited.	Little or no evidence; relies on opinion.	
Reasoning	Explains clearly how each piece of evidence proves the claim.	Explains how most of the evidence supports the claim.	Evidence is listed but rarely explained.	Nothing links the evidence to the claim.	
Counterclaim and Rebuttal	States the strongest opposing view fairly and refutes it with evidence.	States an opposing view and responds to it.	Mentions an opposing view with no real response.	No opposing view.	
Organization	Purposeful structure and transitions; the conclusion follows from the argument.	Clear introduction, body and conclusion; transitions link ideas.	The structure is uneven; transitions are missing or repeated.	No clear structure.	
Conventions	Formal style; grammar, usage and mechanics are nearly free of errors.	Mostly formal; minor errors do not distract.	Informal in places; errors sometimes distract.	Frequent errors make the essay hard to follow.	
COMMENTS				TOTAL OUT OF 24	