Argumentative Writing Rubric

10th Grade English Language Arts

Rubric Scoring Key	Fully meets (4) All criteria present in the writing	Mostly meets (3) Most criteria present, with some misunderstandings	Partially meets (2) Criteria attempted, but significant misunderstandings	Does not meet yet (1) Criteria are not attempted or not enough evidence to rate

Structure	Rubric Score	Notes
Introduction • Uses an engaging hook (such as an anecdote or description), and provides essential context or background information • Presents a precise, nuanced, and debatable claim/thesis • Makes a clear distinction between the claim/thesis and an opposing viewpoint	4 3 2 1	
Organization • Organizes ideas into body paragraphs that support the claim/thesis with reasons and evidence, demonstrating a clear progression of ideas • Uses varied transitions to connect ideas within and between paragraphs and create cohesion across the piece	4 3 2 1	
Conclusion • Provides a concluding statement/section that restates the claim/thesis, summarizes the main reasons, and explains the significance of the argument	4 3 2 1	

Development	Rubric Score	Notes
Reasons • Provides clear, logical reasons that support the claim/thesis • Develops each reason with sufficient evidence and examples • Develops the counterclaim using well-chosen evidence and rebuts it, pointing out its limitations	4 3 2 1	
Evidence & Explanation • Selects relevant evidence (i.e. such as quotations, statistics, facts, anecdotes, opinions, and testimonials) to support each reason • Integrates evidence using context, signal phrases, or brief commentary • Explains how and why evidence supports the reason and connects back to claim/thesis • Demonstrates awareness of audience's knowledge level and concerns through evidence chosen to support reasons	4 3 2 1	

Language	Rubric Score	Notes
Style • Maintains formal language appropriate to the task, audience, and purpose • Uses a tone that supports the argument, whether objective or persuasive • Chooses diction, vocabulary, and sentence structures to shape tone and strengthen the argument	4 3 2 1	
Grammar & Conventions • Uses correct spelling, capitalization, and punctuation • Uses proper MLA formatting and citation • Demonstrates consistent use of grade-level grammar and usage	4 3 2 1	