

Argumentative Writing Rubric

8th 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 major misunderstandings	Does not meet yet (1) Criteria are not attempted or not enough evidence to rate
--------------------	--	--	--	--

Structure	Rubric Score	Notes
Introduction Provides a purposeful and well-crafted introduction that proposes and contextualizes the argument; clearly states the claim; establishes the significance of the argument	4 3 2 1	
Organization Builds the argument by addressing only relevant ideas in claims, counterclaims, and evidence; presents ideas in a logical order; clarifies relationships among ideas using words, phrases, and clauses to create cohesion	4 3 2 1	
Conclusion Provides a purposeful and well-crafted conclusion that logically follows from the argument; summarizes main points and/or reinforces the argument's larger significance	4 3 2 1	

Development	Rubric Score	Notes
Claim/Counterclaim States a precise, debatable claim and, when appropriate, a counterclaim; clearly distinguishes the claim from opposing or alternate claims; supports claims with evidence and reasoning	4 3 2 1	
Reasoning Provides logical support for claims by establishing clear relationships between claims and evidence; demonstrates understanding of the topic; organizes reasons in a purposeful and logical progression	4 3 2 1	

<p>Evidence Incorporates accurate, credible sources to support claims or oppose counterclaims; organizes evidence logically; connects evidence to claims or counterclaims using clear and effective reasoning</p>	<p>4 3 2 1</p>	
--	----------------	--

Language	Rubric Score	Notes
<p>Style Maintains a formal, objective, and persuasive tone appropriate to the task and audience, using precise, varied, and deliberate word choice to strengthen and clarify the argument</p>	<p>4 3 2 1</p>	
<p>Grammar Demonstrates consistent command of grade-level grammar and usage, including correct application of verb voice and mood</p>	<p>4 3 2 1</p>	
<p>Conventions Uses correct capitalization, spelling, and punctuation conventions, including commas, dashes, or ellipses to signal a pause or break</p>	<p>4 3 2 1</p>	