

Rubric: Argumentative Essay Rubric

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Introduction/Thesis Statement (Max 10pts)	Well developed introductory paragraph contains detailed background, a clear explanation or definition of the problem, and a thesis statement. The thesis statement clearly states the writer's opinion. Introduces a well thought out claim. (maximum 10 points – minimum 9 points)	Introductory paragraph contains some background information and states the problem, but does not explain using details. States the thesis of the paper. (maximum 8 points – minimum 6 points)	Introduction states the thesis but does not adequately explain the background of the problem. The problem is stated, but lacks detail. Claim is not as clear as it should be. (maximum 5 points – minimum 3 points)	Thesis and/or problem is vague or unclear. Background details are a seemingly random collection of information, unclear, or not related to the topic. Hard to find the claim or no claim (maximum 2 points – minimum 0 points)
Body Paragraphs Topic Sentences & Supporting Details (Max 25 pts.)	-Main points are well developed with supporting details. Supports the claim with logical reasoning and relevant evidence, demonstrating a complete understanding of the topic -Refutation paragraph(s) acknowledges the opposing view and summarizes their main points. (maximum 25 points – minimum 18 points)	- Main points are present but may lack detail and development in one or two. Supports the claim with reasoning and evidence, and demonstrates some understanding of the topic -Refutation paragraph(s) acknowledges the opposing view but doesn't summarize points. Opposing claims are not strong or relevant to the claim (maximum 17 points – minimum 10 points)	-There are some main points, but all lack development. Evidence is not relevant or not completely thought out. - Missing and/or vague refutation. Opposing claims are unclear (maximum 9 points – minimum 5 points)	-Main points with poor development of ideas. Lacks evidence and relevance or no evidence to support claims - Missing or vague refutation. Hard to find opposing claims or they are not addressed. (maximum 4 points – minimum 0 points)

Conclusion (Max 10 pts)	Conclusion summarizes the main topics without repeating previous sentences; writer's opinions and suggestions for change are logical and well thought out. (maximum 10 points – minimum 9 points)	Conclusion summarizes main topics. Some suggestions for change are evident. (maximum 8 points – minimum 6 points)	Conclusion summarizes main topics, but is repetitive. No suggestions for change and/or opinions are included. (maximum 5 points – minimum 3 points)	Conclusion does not adequately summarize the main points. No suggestions for change or opinions are included. (maximum 2 points – minimum 0 points)
Organization/Structure (Max 25 pts)	Logical, compelling progression of ideas in essay; clear structure which enhances and showcases the central idea or theme and moves the reader through the text. Organization flows so smoothly the reader hardly thinks about it. Effective, mature, graceful transitions exist throughout the essay. (maximum 25 points – minimum 18 points)	Overall, the paper is logically developed. Progression of ideas in essay makes sense and moves the reader easily through the text. Strong transitions exist throughout and add to the essay's coherence (maximum 17 points – minimum 10 points)	Progression of ideas in essay is awkward, yet moves the reader through the text without too much confusion. The writer sometimes lunges ahead too quickly or spends too much time on details that do not matter. Transitions appear sporadically, but not equally throughout the essay. (maximum 9 points – minimum 5 points)	Arrangement of essay is unclear and illogical. The writing lacks a clear sense of direction. Ideas, details or events seem strung together in a loose or random fashion; there is no identifiable internal structure and readers have trouble following the writer's line of thought. Few, forced transitions in the essay or no transitions are present. (maximum 4 points – minimum 0 points)
Style: sentence flow, tone, and word choice (Max 10 pts.)	Writing is smooth, skillful, and coherent. Sentences are strong and expressive with varied structure. Consistent and appropriate tone and word choice is used throughout the essay. Establishes and maintains a formal style. (maximum 10 points – minimum 9 points)	Writing is clear and sentences have varied structure. There is consistent tone and word choice is appropriate with fairly good use of transitions to guide the reader. Mostly follows formal Style. (maximum 8 points – minimum 6 points)	Writing is clear, but sentences may lack variety. The tone is inconsistent and word choice, while adequate, could be better. While transitions are present they do not add to the overall effectiveness of the essay. A few informal sections of writing. (maximum 5 points – minimum 3 points)	Writing is confusing and hard to follow. Contains fragments and/or run-on sentences. The tone and purpose is inconsistent and difficult to determine. Transitions are either missing or inappropriate. (maximum 2 points – minimum 0 points)

Mechanics (Max 20 pts)	No errors in punctuation, spelling, grammar, or capitalization.. (maximum 20 points – minimum 15 points)	A few minor errors in punctuation, spelling, grammar, or capitalization, but they do not detract from the overall meaning and effectiveness of the paragraph. (maximum 14 points – minimum 10 points)	A few errors in punctuation, grammar, spelling, and capitalization that, while distracting, the meaning and intent of the paragraph can still be discerned. (maximum 9 points – minimum 5 points)	Distracting and major errors in grammar, punctuation, spelling, and capitalization. (maximum 4 points – minimum 0 points)
Total Max. 100p.				