

Grading Rubric: Argument Essay

Points	Ratings	Criteria
15 pts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 15 pts: The essay is an outstanding response to the task and audience specified in the prompt. Includes an engaging title and provides a clearly focused, stimulating thesis. Delivers an engaging introduction that grabs the readers' attention and a robust conclusion that follows the argument and provides finality to the essay. ○ 12 pts: The essay is an above average response to the task and audience specified in the prompt. The essay has a title and introduces the claim in an appropriate thesis statement. Provides an effective introduction and conclusion. ○ 11 pts: The essay adequately addresses the task and attempts to respond to the audience specified in the prompt. The writer sufficiently defines the topic, although the ideas are basic or general. The title is adequate, and the thesis responds to the prompt with an adequate claim. Provides an adequate introduction and conclusion. ○ 9 pts: The essay has an idea that needs to be developed. Attempts to respond to the prompt, but the thesis may be unclear or unfocused. The writer does not respond to audience specified in the prompt. The introduction and/or conclusion need to be developed. ○ 0 pts: Does not respond to the prompt. There is no coherent main idea. May lack an introduction or conclusion. 	<p>Ideas</p>
15 pts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 15 pts: Uses and analyzes specific and compelling evidence—quotations, facts, examples, and/or other details from source(s)—to develop claim(s) and counterclaims. Acknowledges and counters opposing claims in a persuasive rebuttal, as appropriate. ○ 12 pts: Uses sufficient evidence—quotations, facts, examples, and/or other details from source(s)—to support claim(s) and counterclaims, and provides an adequate analysis of evidence. Provides a persuasive rebuttal to an opposing claim, as appropriate. ○ 11 pts: Does not provide adequate evidence or does not provide an adequate analysis of the evidence. Demonstrates slightly flawed reasoning (fallacies) that provide lapses in the argument. Inadequately acknowledges opposing claims and/or fails to provide an adequate rebuttal. ○ 9 pts: Is underdeveloped and provides minimal evidence and analysis in support of the claim. Contains significant textual misreading or contains fallacies—misguided, flawed logic. Does not reference, acknowledge, or rebut opposing claims. ○ 0 pts: There is little content supporting the thesis. 	<p>Content</p>
15 pts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 15 pts: The organization is outstanding and showcases the thesis. Includes exceptional transition words and phrases to link ideas throughout the essay. The topic sentences are intricately linked to the thesis and clearly state the main idea of each paragraph. ○ 12 pts: The organizational structure is above average. Includes transition words and phrases throughout the essay. The topic sentences support the thesis and state the main idea of each paragraph. ○ 11 pts: The organizational structure is strong enough to move the reader through the text without too much confusion. The transitions and topic sentences are adequate. ○ 9 pts: The writing needs a clearer sense of direction. The internal structure is weak. The transitions are either limited and/or the topic sentences lack clarity and fail to connect clearly to the thesis. ○ 0 pts: The organization is poor, and includes little or no transitions. May lack topic sentences. 	<p>Organization</p>
5 pts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 5 pts: The writer has a sophisticated style and demonstrates an outstanding word choice selection, flow and cadence, with powerful sentences and a strong grasp of standard writing conventions. Maintains a formal tone and style that is appropriate for the task, audience, and purpose. Adheres to MLA guidelines on Works Cited page and in the in-text citations. ○ 4 pts: The writer demonstrates above average word choice selection, flow and cadence, with well-built sentences and a grasp of standard writing conventions. Uses a tone and style that is consistent and appropriate for the audience. Minor errors in MLA format and/or citations. ○ 3 pts: The writer demonstrates a sufficient selection of words. The text tends to be more mechanical and contains some errors of standard writing conventions. The tone and style are not consistently appropriate for the audience. Shows an attempt to follow MLA guidelines. ○ 2 pt: The writer demonstrates a limited vocabulary and lack of fluidity. Errors in spelling, punctuation, capitalization, usage and grammar repeatedly distract the reader and make the text difficult to read. Uses a tone and style that are ineffective and inappropriate. Has several significant or distracting errors in MLA format/conventions. ○ 0 pts: The writer demonstrates a weak vocabulary. The frequency of the errors impedes the reader's understanding of the writer's ideas. Has distracting errors in MLA format and/or citations or omits them altogether. 	<p>Word Choice, Sentence Fluency, Conventions</p>