

Argumentative Writing Rubric

Name: _____

_____/24

Category	4	3	2	1	0
Thesis Statement	Thesis is clearly stated with two clear reasons in the introduction and conclusion, without the words "I think that..." or "I believe...", and acknowledges the counterargument.	Thesis is clearly stated with two clear reasons in the introduction and conclusion, without the words "I think that..." or "I believe..."	Thesis is stated in the introduction and conclusion with two reasons. Thesis may include the words "I think..." or "I believe..." OR may not be clearly stated.	Thesis is stated in the introduction, but not in the conclusion. The reasons may not be clear and may include the words "I think..." or "I believe..."	Thesis is missing entirely or is informational (does not take a stand). Thesis lacks reasoning. Thesis includes the words "I think..." or "I believe..."
Organization and Transitions	Body paragraphs follow the order presented in thesis. Consistent, logical transitions are used throughout. Arguments and evidence remain focused on thesis/main point throughout; sub points follow a logical, clear order. The counter-argument is clearly indicated.	Body paragraphs follow the order presented in thesis. Consistent, logical transitions are used throughout. Arguments and evidence remain focused on thesis/main point throughout; sub points follow a logical, clear order.	Body paragraphs follow a logical order. Transitions are used throughout the writing. Arguments and evidence mostly remain focused on the thesis / main point.	Body paragraphs attempt to follow a logical order. There are few transitions used throughout the writing. Arguments and evidence do not clearly support the thesis or main point, OR wander off topic.	Body paragraphs do not follow the order presented in thesis. Arguments are presented in a disorganized and confusing manner. There is little to no focus throughout or little to no transitions are used.
Counter-argument	The writer refutes two or more opposing arguments in a respectful manner, using examples to support his or her counter-argument.	The writer refutes one opposing arguments in a respectful manner, using examples to support his or her counter-argument.	The writer refutes multiple opposing arguments but does not use warrants to support his or her counter-argument.	The writer refutes one opposing arguments but does not use warrants to support his or her counter-argument.	No counter argument has been addressed OR counter argument has been addressed unclearly so the writer is suddenly arguing for his/her opponent.
Evidence and Elaboration	Evidence is relevant and supportive of claims. Evidence comes from class sources and is smoothly integrated into the essay. Explanations logically tie the claim and the argument together, and show extended reasoning.	Evidence is relevant and supportive of claims. Evidence comes from class sources and is smoothly integrated into the essay. Explanations logically tie the claim and the argument together.	Evidence is mostly relevant, but may not be completely supportive of claims. Evidence comes from class sources and is integrated into the essay. Explanations tie the claim and the argument together.	Evidence is included, but not completely supportive of claims. Evidence does not come from class sources OR is only from one class source. Explanations attempt to tie the claim and the argument together, but do not clearly do so.	Evidence has little to no relevance. Evidence is made up or does not come from credible sources. Evidence is not integrated at all into the essay. No explanation links claims to evidence and evidence to claims.
Grammar & Spelling (Conventions)	Writer makes no errors in grammar, spelling, or formatting that distract the reader from the content.	Writer makes 2-3 errors in grammar, spelling, or formatting that distract the reader from the content.	Writer makes 4-5 errors in grammar, spelling, or formatting that distract the reader from the content.	Writer makes 6-9 errors in grammar, spelling, or formatting that distract the reader from the content.	Writer makes more than 9 errors in grammar, spelling, or formatting that distract the reader from the content.
Citations	All quotes and paraphrases include an in-text citation, using the proper formatting: parentheses at the end of the sentence containing author or article information and pg/paragraph #. At least one quote is embedded, rather than just a parenthetical citation.	All quotes and paraphrases include an in-text citation, using the proper formatting: parentheses at the end of the sentence containing author or article information and pg/paragraph #.	Most quotes and paraphrases include an in-text citation properly formatted OR all the in-text citations are missing one element (author name or pg/paragraph #).	Quotes and paraphrases attempt to include an in-text citation, but are improperly formatted.	NO citations have been used in the paper at all.