

Writer name: _____

Date: _____

Argumentative Essay Rubric

Introduction **Section Score: ___ / 8**

1. Grabs attention with a hook
2. Clearly defines/establishes the focus and context for the essay
3. Provides a clear, pronged thesis which forecasts organization for the essay
4. Provides an interesting and appropriate opening for the subject matter and intended audience

Organization/Structure **Section Score: ___ / 15**

1. Contains a distinct introductory paragraph, required number of body paragraphs, and a distinct concluding paragraph
2. Body paragraphs follow the structure forecast from the thesis
3. Body paragraphs break at logical places and clearly separate topics of discussion
4. Transitions are used appropriately to connect sentences and paragraphs and establish overall flow
5. All paragraphs are unified around the primary thesis concept/main argument of the essay (coherence)
6. Sentences within paragraphs progress logically toward both the sub-argument of that paragraph and the overall primary argument of the essay
7. Establishes logical progression within and between sentences and paragraphs (coherence)

Conclusion **Section Score: ___ / 7**

1. Appropriately and logically wraps up the discussion
2. Restates the thesis and sub-arguments (in different words)
3. “Brings the argument home” with a strong conclusive statement
4. Provides a sense of closure and impact

Logic/Reasoning **Section Score: ___ / 15**

1. Argument and sub-arguments reflect thoughtful analysis and depth of reasoning
2. Essay develops the argument well, providing adequate reasoning and support
3. Essay considers alternative views or possible holes/weaknesses in the primary argument, and addresses them
4. Argument does not over-generalize or make broad assumptions
5. Writer utilizes each of the three rhetorical strategies (*ethos, pathos, logos*) at least once during the essay

Style/Voice **Section Score: ___ / 15**

1. The style and overall voice of the essay is appropriate for both the assignment and the assumed audience (in level of formality, diction used, etc.)
2. Writer uses varied sentence structure and the essay does not feel either choppy (too many short sentences) or overly wordy (too many long, rambling sentences)
3. Writer uses an appropriate tense and POV, and does not switch tense or POV in the course of the essay
4. Writer uses concise, clear language and avoids wordiness or repetition
5. The voice of the essay feels consistent throughout
6. Language is not overly casual, dismissive, or offensive to audience

Grammar/Mechanics Section Score: ___ / 15

For each category where the writer has ZERO errors, write the appropriate # of points in the blank (possible points for each category are listed in parentheses). If they have ANY errors of that type, write 0 in the blank. Total all point values from the blanks; Goal for the writer would be to achieve 15 full points from this section.

- ___ subject/verb disagreement (1)
- ___ pronoun disagreement (1)
- ___ unclear pronoun reference (1)
- ___ tense error or tense shifts (2)
- ___ spelling error/typo (1)
- ___ capitalization error (1)
- ___ word used incorrectly or inappropriately (3)
- ___ idiom, cliché, or colloquialism used (1)
- ___ punctuation errors (1)
- ___ run-on sentences (2)
- ___ sentence fragments (1)

Use of Sources/Research Section Score: ___ / 15

1. Writer utilizes supporting research, examples, and details to effectively argue and persuade
2. Essay includes information from the required number of sources
3. Sources used are appropriate for both the subject matter and the audience
4. Sources used are credible and meet all assignment requirements
5. Quotations, summaries, and paraphrases from outside sources are appropriately implemented (no dropped quotes) and well-integrated into the text in a logical and seamless fashion
6. All sources are properly cited and documented in the text
7. An appropriate reference page (Works Cited, Bibliography, etc.) is included and lists all sources
8. Writer does not over-rely on outside sources (excessive quotations, etc.) – essay is primarily the writer’s original thought, with sources used appropriate to support and strengthen arguments

Requirements/Formatting Section Score: ___ / 10

1. Format, references, and citations follow MLA style or some other professional style, as agreed upon with the instructor.
2. Typical formatting requirements for an academic paper (adjust as needed for individual instructor preferences):
 - 1 inch margins
 - 12 pt Times Roman font
 - Title, name heading on first page
 - Page numbers properly formatted (top-right header with last name and page #)
 - Works Cited or Bibliography page properly formatted (alphabetical; hanging indents; citations properly formatted)
 - In-text citations properly formatted (see MLA handbook for details)

Overall Score: ____/100