

Argumentative Essay Rubric

	Levels of Achievement				
Criteria	4	3	2	1	0
A. BEGINNING & END Introduction Background/history Define the problem Thesis Statement Conclusion	Well-developed introductory paragraph contains detailed background, a clear explanation or definition of the problem, and a thesis statement Conclusion summarizes the main topics without repeating previous sentences; writer's opinions and suggestions for Change are logical and well thought out.	Introductory paragraph contains some background information and states the problem but does not explain using details. States the thesis of the paper. Conclusion summarizes main topics. Some suggestions for change are evident.	Introduction states the thesis but does not adequately explain the background of the problem. The problem is stated but lacks detail. Conclusion summarizes main topics but is repetitive. No suggestions for change and/or opinions are included.	Thesis and/or problem is vague or unclear. Background details are a seemingly random collection of information, unclear, or not related to the topic. Conclusion does not adequately summarize the main points. No suggestions for change or opinions are included.	Background and/or Thesis is missing or completely inadequate of off topic. Conclusion is garbled, illogical, or missing
B. MAIN POINTS Body Paragraphs Refutation (acknowledge the valid points of the opposing argument)	Three or more main points are well developed with supporting details. Refutation paragraph(s) acknowledges the opposing view and summarizes their main points.	Three or more main points are present but may lack detail and development in one or two. Refutation paragraph(s) acknowledges the opposing view but doesn't summarize points.	Three or more main points, but all lack development. Refutation paragraph(s) missing and/or vague.	Less than three main points, with poor development of ideas. Refutation missing or vague.	The main points are lacking, or the writer has resorted to improbable or unrelated justifications.
C. ORGANIZATION <u>Assertion</u> (claim, arguable) <u>Example</u> (quote, data) <u>Explanation</u> (analyze, show link to claim) <u>Significance</u> (answers So what? Shows purpose) The format above produces paragraphs that are developed, unified, and coherent.	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.	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.	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.	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.	The essay lacks any discernible logical organizational structure. Instead, the writer simply chose to write ideas without reflection or constraints.
D. MECHANICS Sentence Structure Punctuation, Capitalization, Spelling	Sentence structure is correct. Punctuation, capitalization, and spelling are correct.	Sentence structure is generally correct. Some awkward sentences do appear. There are one or two errors in spelling, Punctuation, or capitalization.	Work contains structural weaknesses and grammatical errors. There are three or four errors in spelling, Punctuation, or capitalization.	Work contains multiple incorrect sentence structures. There are four or more errors in spelling, Punctuation, or capitalization.	The essay is replete with problems involving sentence structure, punctuation, spelling, and capitalization.
E. CITATIONS In-body references to your sources and their corresponding bibliographic entries	Source material is smoothly integrated into the text. All sources are accurately documented in the desired format both in the text and on the Works Cited page.	Source material is used. All sources are accurately documented, but a few are not in the desired format. Some sources lack credibility.	Source material is used, but integration may be awkward. All sources are accurately documented, but many are not in the desired format or lack credibility.	Lacks sources and/or sources are not accurately documented. Format is incorrect for all sources.	The writer chose to ignore MLA 8 th edition documentation style altogether.

4 = Excellent (90 – 100%); 3 = Above Average (80 – 89%); 2 = Average (70 – 79); 1= Below Average (60 – 69%); 0 = Unacceptable (0 – 59%)