

Argumentative Essay Rubric

	4 Points	3 Points	2 Points	1 Point
Intro / Thesis 15 % Attention Getter Background/History Defining Problem Thesis Statement	Well-developed introduction engages the reader and creates interest. Contains detailed background information and a clear explanation of the problem. Thesis clearly states a significant and compelling position.	Introduction adequately explains the background of the problem, but may lack clarity. thesis states a problem, but writer's position may not be evident.	Background details are a random collection of information, are unclear, and may be loosely related to the topic. Thesis / position is vague or not stated.	Writing is confusing and hard to follow. Contains fragments and/or run-on sentences. . Tone of piece is highly inconsistent with writer's position / thesis. Many errors in punctuation, spelling, & capitalization distract reader.
Argumentative Points 50 % Minimum of 3 argumentative points. Body Paragraphs Countering Objection Conclusion	Well-developed argumentative points directly support the writer's thesis / position. Supporting examples are concrete and detailed. Commentary is logical and well-thought-out. Refutation acknowledges opposing viewpoints clearly and skillfully. Conclusion revisits the thesis in a new way and applies the writer's position universally.	Most argumentative points are related to the thesis, but one may lack sufficient support or deviates from thesis. Refutation acknowledges opposing viewpoint(s) with some logic and clarity. Conclusion summarizes thesis and key points with some "fresh" commentary present.	More than one argumentative point lacks sufficient details and support. Writer attempts to address one or more opposing arguments, but the writer may not refute the opposition clearly or adequately. Conclusion mirrors introduction too closely, with little or no new commentary on the writer's thesis / position.	Most argumentative points are poorly developed. Refutation is missing or vague. Commentary is not present. Conclusion does not re-visit the thesis or summarize key argumentative point(s).
Organization 15 % Structure Transitions	Writing is smooth, skillful, and coherent. Sentences are strong and expressive with varied structure. Words are well-chosen. The tone is highly consistent with writer's position / thesis and appropriate throughout essay. Punctuation, spelling, & capitalization are accurate with few or no errors.	Writing is clear and sentences have some varied structure. Tone is generally consistent with writer's position / thesis and is appropriate throughout essay. Punctuation, spelling, & capitalization are generally accurate, with some errors.	Writing is clear, but sentences may lack variety. Tone may be inconsistent with writer's position / thesis. Several errors in punctuation, spelling, & capitalization	Writing is confusing and hard to follow. Contains fragments and/or run-on sentences. . Tone of piece is highly inconsistent with writer's position / thesis. Many errors in punctuation, spelling, & capitalization distract reader.
Style & Conventions 10 % Sentence structure. Spelling, Punctuation, Capitalization	Writing is smooth, skillful, and coherent. Sentences are strong and expressive with varied structure. Words are well-chosen. The tone is highly consistent with writer's position / thesis and appropriate throughout essay. Punctuation, spelling, & capitalization are accurate with few or no errors.	Writing is clear and sentences have some varied structure. Tone is generally consistent with writer's position / thesis and is appropriate throughout essay. Punctuation, spelling, & capitalization are generally accurate, with some errors.	Writing is clear, but sentences may lack variety. Tone may be inconsistent with writer's position / thesis. Several errors in punctuation, spelling, & capitalization.	Writing is confusing and hard to follow. Contains fragments and/or run-on sentences. . Tone of piece is highly inconsistent with writer's position / thesis. Many errors in punctuation, spelling, & capitalization distract reader.
Sources 10 % Use of Sources- minimum of 3- must use supplied articles. Follows MLA Format Relevance & Reliability Minimum of 3 quotes. One from each article used. Works cited list. Parenthetical citations.	Evidence from sources is smoothly and logically integrated into essay and serves to add credibility & insight into writer's position / thesis. All sources are cited accurately and are highly relevant and reliable. Contains quotes and parenthetical citations. Has a separate works cited page.	Evidence from source(s) is integrated into the text. Most sources are cited accurately and are generally relevant and reliable.	Some source material is used and may or may not lend credibility to writer's position / thesis. Several sources may not be cited accurately. Relevance and reliability may be questionable.	Little or no source material is used. Source citations are not evident or may be highly inaccurate. Relevance and/or reliability are strongly in question.