

Rubric for Argument

SCORE	THESIS AND ARGUMENT	USE OF EVIDENCE	ORGANIZATION	STYLE, VOICE, AND CLARITY	CONVENTIONS AND MECHANICS
5 Outstanding	A well-developed thesis introduces a clear argument that includes a strongly developed claim and addresses counterclaims	Ample and appropriately selected details effectively support the argument throughout the response	Clear and consistent organization with well-executed transitions excellently supports the argument, including an excellent introduction and conclusion	The response is clear and original and employs appropriate stylistic elements for effect in an exceptional manner	Syntax, grammar, and conventions are correct and add to the effectiveness of the response
4 Exceeds Expectations	The thesis is clear and introduces a claim as well as counterclaims	Appropriately selected details support the argument throughout the response	The organization is clear and supports the argument; the introduction and conclusion are well-executed	The response is clear and employs appropriate stylistic elements for effect	Few or no errors are present in usage or syntax
3 Meets Expectations	The thesis is clear; claims and counterclaims are addressed in an adequate manner	Details adequately support the argument but may demonstrate some inconsistencies in execution or application	The organization, including introduction and conclusion, are adequate to support the argument	The response is mostly clear and adequately employs stylistic elements	Minor errors in usage or syntax may be present, but without repetition or undermining overall effectiveness
2 Approaching Expectations	The thesis is vague or unclear; claims may be unclear, and counterclaims may be absent or vaguely addressed	There is insufficient evidence to support the argument, or details are not always adequate to support points	Some flaws in organization or lack of clarity and transitions make the argument hard to follow	The response may be unclear or misuses stylistic elements in ways that interfere with voice and meaning	Patterns of errors in usage or syntax undermine the effectiveness of the response
1 Well Below Expectations	The thesis is vague or absent, and claims are unclear	Evidence and details are missing or insufficient to support the argument	The organization lacks focus and clarity; transitions may be unclear	The response is vague or lacks clarity; stylistic choices may confuse rather than enhance meaning	Significant errors in usage or syntax obscure the meaning and effectiveness of the response