

Rubric for the Assessment of the Argumentative Essay

	4	3	2	1	Score
A. Introduction Background/history Define the problem Thesis Statement	Well developed introductory paragraph contains detailed background , a clear explanation or definition of the problem, and a thesis statement	Introductory paragraph contains some background information and states the problem, but does not explain using details. States the thesis of the paper.	Introduction states the thesis but does not adequately explain the background of the problem. The problem is stated, but lacks detail.	Thesis and/or problem is vague or unclear.	
B. MAIN POINTS Body Paragraphs	Three or more main points are well developed with supporting details.	Three or more main points are present but may lack detail and development in one or two.	Three or more main points, but all lack development.	Less than three main points, with poor development of ideas.	
C. Refutation	Refutation paragraph(s) acknowledges the opposing view and summarizes their main points.	Refutation paragraph(s) acknowledges the opposing view but doesn't summarize points.	Refutation paragraph(s) missing and/or vague	Refutation is missing or vague, and the whole paper is nothing but frustrating.	
D. ORGANIZATION	Logical, compelling progression of ideas in essay;clear structure which enhances and showcases the central idea.	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.	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;	
E. WORKS CITED	Source material is smoothly integrated into the text. All sources are accurately documented.	Source material is used. All sources are accurately documented, but a few are not in the desired format.	Source material is used, but integration may be awkward.	Lacks sources and/or sources are not accurately documented. Format is incorrect for all sources.	
F. Brilliant and less brilliant.	Lots of smart, witty, insightful things are in the essay.	Some smart, witty, insightful things are in the essay.	The paper makes some points but lacks deep insights.	The paper lacks much insight.	
G. MECHANICS Sentence Structure Punctuation & Capitalization	Sentence structure is correct. Punctuation and capitalization are correct.	Sentence structure is generally correct. Some awkward sentences do appear. There are one or two errors in punctuation and/or capitalization.	Work contains structural weaknesses and grammatical errors. There are three or four errors.	Work contains multiple incorrect sentence structures. There are four or more errors in punctuation and/or capitalization.	
				TOTAL	