

Argumentative Essay Rubric

	4	3	2	1	Points
Introduction	A well developed introductory paragraph contained detailed background information, a clear explanation or definition of the problem, and a thesis statement.	The introductory paragraph contained some background information and stated the problem, but did not explain using details. The thesis was stated.	The introduction stated the thesis, but did not adequately explain the background of the problem. The problem was stated, but lacked detail.	The thesis or problem was vague or unclear. The background details were a random collection of information, unclear, or not related to the topic.	
Conclusion	The conclusion summarized the main topics without repeating previous sentences. The writer's opinions and suggestions for change were logical and well thought out.	The conclusion summarized the main topics. Some suggestions for change were evident.	The conclusion summarized the main topics, but was repetitive. No suggestions for change were included.	The conclusion did not adequately summarize the main points. No suggestions for change were included.	
Main Points	Three or more main points were well developed with supporting details. Refutation paragraphs acknowledged the opposing view and summarized their main points.	Three or more main points were present but may have lacked detail and development in one or two. Refutation paragraphs acknowledged the opposing view but didn't summarize points.	Three or more main points were present, but all lacked development. Refutation paragraphs were missing or vague.	Less than three main points were present with poor development of ideas. Refutation was missing or vague.	
Organization	Logical, compelling progression of ideas in essay. Clear structure which enhanced and showcased the central idea or theme and moved the reader through the text. Effective, mature, graceful transitions existed throughout the essay.	Overall the paper was logically developed. Progression of ideas in the essay made sense and moved the reader easily through the text. Strong transitions existed throughout and added to the essay's coherence.	The progression of ideas in the essay was awkward, but moved the reader through the text without too much confusion. Transitions appeared sporadically, but not equally throughout the essay.	The arrangement of the essay was unclear. The writing lacked a clear sense of direction. Ideas, details, or events seemed strung together. There was no identifiable internal structure. Few or no transitions were present in the essay.	
Works Cited	Source material was smoothly integrated into the text. All sources were accurately documented in the desired format in the text and on the works cited page.	Source material was used. All sources were accurately documented, but a few were not in the desired format. Some sources lacked credibility.	Source material was used, but integration may have been awkward. All sources were accurately documented, but many were not in the desired format or lacked credibility.	Lacked sources or sources were not accurately documented. Format was incorrect for all sources.	
Mechanics	Sentence structure was correct. Punctuation and capitalization were correct.	Sentence structure was generally correct. Some awkward sentences did appear. There were one or two errors in punctuation or capitalization.	Work contained structural weaknesses and grammatical errors. There were three or four errors in punctuation and capitalization.	Work contained multiple incorrect sentence structures. There were four or more errors in punctuation and capitalization.	

Total Points
 ____/24
 Average
