

Student's Name _____ Date _____

Argument Writing Rubric

Use this rubric to assess student writing. Record the appropriate score in the Score column.

Criteria	Needs Improvement	Average	Good	Excellent	Score
	1	2	3	4	
1. An introductory statement identifies the issue the paper will discuss.	Needs an introductory statement that identifies an issue.	Identifies a basic issue.	Clearly identifies an issue.	Identifies a relevant and compelling issue.	
2. A clear thesis statement presents the writer's claim about the issue.	Needs a thesis statement that presents a claim or opinion.	Presents a claim or opinion.	Presents a clear claim or opinion.	Presents a well-defined and compelling claim or opinion.	
3. Convincing reasons and relevant evidence support the argument.	Needs supporting evidence.	A few details support the argument, but some are not convincing and relevant.	Convincing, relevant evidence supports the argument.	Convincing, relevant evidence strongly supports the argument.	
4. Transition words and phrases introduce and connect ideas.	Needs transition words and phrases.	Includes a few transition words and phrases.	Includes several transition words and phrases.	Uses precise and varied transition words and phrases.	
5. The conclusion restates the thesis and offers a recommendation.	Needs a recommendation, or recommendation is off-topic.	Offers a recommendation, but it is not meaningful or actionable.	Offers a recommendation related to the thesis.	Offers a meaningful and actionable recommendation.	
6. Follows conventions of mechanics, usage, and spelling.	Errors in grammar, spelling, punctuation, and capitalization interfere with reader understanding.	Some errors in grammar, spelling, punctuation, and capitalization.	Few errors in grammar, spelling, punctuation, and capitalization.	Correct grammar, spelling, punctuation, and capitalization.	
Overall Score					



Student's Name _____ Date _____

Argument Writing Scoring Chart

Use the chart below to provide feedback on student writing.

Criteria	Score	Comments
1. Introductory statement		
2. Thesis statement		
3. Convincing reasons and relevant evidence		
4. Transition words and phrases		
5. Conclusion		
6. Conventions		

