Argument Essay Rubric

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Criteria | | | | | | Pts. |
|  | 30 | 24 | 18 | 12 | 6 |  |
| **Inclusion of claims and counterclaims** | Claims are logical and well-organized. It’s easy to distinguish what your claims are. You acknowledge and refute counterclaims. | Claims are logical and understandable. They could be easier to identify. You acknowledge and refute counterclaims. | Claims are logical. You acknowledge counterclaims, but refutation could be stronger. | Claims are logical, but counterclaims are not evident. | Claims and counterclaims are not evident. | \_\_\_\_ |
| **Organization of essay** | The organization of your essay adds to the strength of your argument.  You have a clear introduction, body, and conclusion. | Essay could be better organized. You’ve included an introduction, body, and conclusion. | Essay is organized, but not in an effective manner. You are missing a clear introduction, body, OR conclusion. | Essay is lacking in organization. You are missing either an introduction, body, OR conclusion. | Organization has not been considered. You do not follow the introduction-body-conclusion format. | \_\_\_\_ |
| **Evidence and support of claims (including outside research)** | All claims are well-supported with credible sources and logical evidence. You demonstrate a strong knowledge of your topic. | Claims are supported with credible sources. You demonstrate knowledge of your topic. | Most claims are supported with sources that you’ve researched. You seem to understand the topic. | Claims are supported with your own opinion. It isn’t evident that you’ve done much research. | There is no evidence to support your claims. | \_\_\_\_ |
| **Transitions and cohesion** | Essay has smooth transitions. Each paragraph flows into the next. | Essay is cohesive, but some transitions could be smoother. | Essay could be better connected. Transitions could be smoother. | Essay is lacking in cohesion. Transitions are not very smooth. | Organization and cohesion of essay is not evident. | \_\_\_\_ |
| **Formal style** | Formal style is maintained throughout. Appropriate for an academic essay. | Formal style is maintained throughout most of the essay. Appropriate for an academic essay. | Style is formal in some parts and not in others. Appropriate for an academic essay. | Style is informal. Essay is still appropriate for an academic essay. | Style is informal. Essay is not appropriate for an academic essay. | \_\_\_\_ |
| **Conclusion** | Conclusion is strong. It sums up your argument and supports your claims. | Conclusion could be stronger. It mostly sums up your argument and supports your claims. | Conclusion is somewhat strong. Parts of your argument are left unsupported. | Conclusion is weak. Parts of your argument are left unsupported. | Conclusion is weak. Your argument is not very well supported. | \_\_\_\_ |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Criteria | | | | | | Pts. |
|  | 10 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 2 |  |
| **MLA-style** | MLA-style is flawless | MLA-style is mostly correct. | MLA-style has some errors. | MLA-style is mostly wrong. | MLA-style is not evident. | \_\_\_\_ |
| **MLA works cited page** | MLA works-cited page is flawless. All sources are credible. | MLA works-cited page is mostly correct. All sources are credible. | MLA works-cited page has errors. Most sources are credible. | MLA works-cited page has errors. Some sources are credible. | MLA works-cited page has errors. Sources are not credible. | \_\_\_\_ |
| **Grammar and Mechanics** | Minimal mistakes in grammar, usage, and punctuation.  (0-1) | Few mistakes in grammar, usage, and punctuation.  (2-3) | Some mistakes in grammar, usage, and punctuation.  (4-5) | Several mistakes in grammar, usage, and punctuation.  (6-7) | Many mistakes in grammar, usage, and punctuation.  (8 or more) | \_\_\_\_ |

Total: \_\_\_\_\_/210