

ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY RUBRIC
GRADE 7

Criteria	Level 4: Exceeding Standards	Level 3: Meeting Standards	Level 2: Approaching Standards	Level 1: Below Standards
Focus & Structure	Essay maintains a clear, relevant and logical organization. Multiple sections (groups of paragraphs) work together to form an argument.	Essay maintains a clear and relevant organization throughout. Each new paragraph relates to and builds on the previous section logically.	Essay maintains a mostly clear and relevant organization. Some paragraphs relate to and build upon previous sections logically.	Essay does not maintain a clear and relevant organization. The paragraphs do not relate to and build upon previous sections logically.
Introduction	Introductory section provides a strong opening, context and thesis statement. The thesis statement includes details that preview the rest of the essay.	Introductory section provides a strong opening, adequate context and a clear thesis statement.	Introductory section offers context and a clear thesis statement	Introductory section contains some context and an unclear thesis statement
Evidence	Student supports their thesis statement with multiple clear and relevant examples from credible sources using quotes and citations . Evidence acknowledges and refutes alternate or opposing points of view.	Student supports their thesis statement with multiple clear and relevant examples from credible sources using quotes . Evidence acknowledges alternate or opposing points of view.	Student supports their thesis statement with some clear and relevant examples from credible sources using quotes . Evidence attempts to acknowledge alternate or opposing points of view but does so unclearly.	Student supports their thesis statement with few clear and relevant examples from credible sources using quotes . Evidence makes no attempt to acknowledge alternate or opposing points of view.
Conclusion	Essay provides a concluding statement that summarizes the major points, explains their significance , and builds to new ideas and insights.	Essay provides a concluding statement that summarizes the major points of the argument and explains their significance fully.	Essay provides a concluding statement that is mostly summary and includes little explanation	Essay provides a concluding statement that is all summary OR essay does not provide a concluding statement
Style (Language Choice & Conventions)	Uses strong words, transitional phrases and complex sentences throughout . Grammatical conventions are followed successfully (95% accuracy)	Frequently uses strong words, transitional phrases and complex sentences. Grammatical conventions are usually followed with success (85% accuracy)	Sometimes uses strong words, transitional phrases and complex sentences. Grammatical conventions are sometimes followed with success (75% accuracy)	Rarely uses strong words, transitional phrases and complex sentences. Grammatical conventions are rarely followed with success (65% accuracy)