## Argumentative Essays Rubric Grades 6-8

Criteria	4	3	2	1
Introduction	Author thoroughly	Author provides an	Author provides an	Author provides an
	introduces the topic in	introductory statement that	introductory statement that	introductory statement that
Introduce claim(s) about a	depth, claim(s) about the	names the topic of the	outlines some of the main	is confused about the topic,
topic or issue, acknowledge	topic or issue, acknowledge	essay, takes a position, and	points to be discussed.	claims, and reasons
and distinguish the claim(s)	and distinguish the claim(s)	states an alternate or	Author takes a position	
from alternate or opposing	from alternate or opposing	opposing claim. Outlines the	without acknowledging	
claims, and organize the	claims, and organizes the	main points to be discussed	alternative or opposing	
reasons and evidence	reasons and evidence		claims	
logically.	logically			
Evidence	Author supports claim(s)	Author supports claims with	Author supports claims with	Author fails to support
	with logical reasoning and	clear reasons and relevant,	a few clear reasons and	claims with clear reasons
Support claim(s) with logical	relevant, accurate data and	accurate evidence that	relevant evidence	and relevant evidence
reasoning and relevant,	evidence that demonstrate	demonstrates a basic		
accurate data and evidence	an in depth understanding of	understanding of the topic		
that demonstrate an	the topic or text, using	or text using creditable		
understanding of the topic	credible sources	sources.		
or text, using credible				
sources				
Sequencing/ Organization	Arguments and support are	Arguments and support are	Arguments and support are	Many of the supporting
	provided in a logical order	provided in a logical order	provided in order but the	details or arguments are not
Use words, phrases, and	and the author uses many	and the author uses some	author uses a few words,	in an expected or logical
clauses to create cohesion	words, phrases, and clauses	words, phrases, and clauses	phrases, and clauses to	order, and words, phrases,
and clarify the relationships	to create cohesion and	to create cohesion and	create cohesion	and clauses to create
among claim(s),	clarify the relationships	clarify the relationships		cohesion are missing
counterclaims, reasons, and	among claim(s),	among claim(s),		
evidence.	counterclaims, reasons, and	counterclaims, reasons, and		
	evidence	evidence		
Conclusion	The author provides a well-	The author provides a	The author's position is	There is no conclusion - the
	reasoned and detailed	concluding statement or	restated.	paper just ends.
	section that follows from	section that follows from		
	and supports the argument	and supports the argument		
	presented.	presented.		
Language	The author establishes and	The author establishes and	The author makes errors in	The author makes
	maintains a formal style.	maintains a formal style. The	grammar or spelling that	substantial errors in
	There are no errors in	author makes few errors in	distract the reader from the	grammar or spelling that
	spelling or mechanics.	spelling or mechanics	content.	distract the reader from the
				content.