Argument Writing Rubric

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Score: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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| **CATEGORY** | **4** | **3** | **2** | **1** |
| **INTRODUCTION**  **Write a main idea and restate the question** | Introduce precise, **knowledgeable claim(s), establish the significance** of the claim(s), distinguish the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims, and create an organization that **logically sequences** claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence. | Introduce **precise claim(s),** distinguish the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims, and create an organization that establishes **clear relationships among claim(s)**, counterclaims, reasons, and evidence. | Introduce claim(s), **acknowledge and distinguish the claim(s)** from alternate or opposing claims, and organize the reasons and evidence logically. | Introduce **claim(s), acknowledge alternate or opposing claims**, and organize the reasons and evidence logically. |
| **DEVELOPMENT**  **Understand that the supporting sentences in a statement should work together to tell more about the main idea** | Develop claim(s) and counterclaims fairly and **thoroughly**, supplying the most **relevant evidence** for each while pointing out the strengths and limitations of both in a manner that anticipates the audience’s knowledge level, concerns, **values, and possible biases**. | **Develop** claim(s) and counterclaims **fairly**, supplying evidence for each while **pointing** **out the strengths** and **limitations** of both in a manner that **anticipates the audience’s knowledge** level and concerns. | Support claim(s) with **logical reasoning** and relevant evidence, using accurate, credible sources and demonstrating an understanding of the topic or text. | Support claim(s) with **clear reasons** and **relevant evidence**, using **credible** sources and demonstrating an understanding of the topic or text. |
| **WORD USAGE**  **Syntax (sentence structure) is clear and conveys intended meaning** | Use words, phrases, and clauses as well as **varied syntax** to link the major sections of the text, create cohesion, and clarify the relationships between claim(s) and reasons, between reasons and evidence, and between claim(s) and counterclaims. | Use words, phrases, and clauses to **link the major sections** of the text, create cohesion, and clarify the relationships between claim(s) and reasons, between reasons and evidence, and **between claim(s)** and **counterclaims**. | Use words, phrases, and clauses to **create cohesion** and clarify the relationships among claim(s), **counterclaims**, reasons, and **evidence**. | Use **words, phrases, and clauses** to clarify the relationships among claim(s) and reasons. |
| **TONE**  **Voice used is formal and objective** | Establish and maintain a formal style and objective tone while **attending to the norms** and **conventions of the discipline** in which they are writing. | Establish and maintain a formal style and **objective tone**. | Establish and maintain a **formal style.** | **Establish** and **maintain** a **voice**. |
| **CONCLUSION**  **Write a summarizing and/or concluding closing sentence** | Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and **supports the argument presented**. | Provide a concluding statement or section that **follows from the argument presented**. | Provide a concluding statement or section **related to the opinion presented**. | Provide a **concluding statement** or section. |
| **BASIC WRITING CONVENTIONS**  **Use basic punctuation correctly; Know and correctly spell level appropriate words ;Use correct verb tense** | Contains few, if any punctuation, capitalization, and spelling errors. | Contains several errors in punctuation, spelling or grammar that do not interfere with meaning. | Contains many errors in punctuation, spelling and/or grammar that interfere with meaning/requires the reader to infer. | Illegible. Piece cannot be read for meaning. |
| **USE OF SOURCES**  **Citation within text and works cited page** | All source material is used and smoothly integrated into the text. All sources are accurately documented and in the desired format on the Works Cited page.  All sources are relevant and reliable | All source material is used. All sources are accurately documented, but a few are not in the desired format on the Works Cited page. Most sources are relevant and reliable. | All sources are accurately documented, but many are not in the desired format on the Works Cited page. Some sources are relevant and reliable. | Lacks sources and/or sources are not accurately documented. Incorrect format is used. Sources are not relevant nor reliable. |