Argumentative Text Rubric

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|  | **Exceptional** | **Skilled** | **Developing** | **Emerging/Inadequate** |
| **Intro & Conclusion**  **20%** | * Intro begins with a relevant attention getter that draws the reader in * Intro contains an original, arguable thesis statement and claim * Conclusion skillfully restates the essay’s thesis and claim * Conclusion offers a final thought that identifies and thoroughly follows and supports the argument presented | * Intro begins with a mostly relevant attention getter that draws the reader in * Intro contains an original thesis statement that is somewhat arguable * Conclusion restates the essay’s thesis and claim * Conclusion offers a final thought that begins to discuss the significance of the argument | * Intro begins with an attempt at an attention getter to draw the read in * Intro contains a thesis statement that is original, though somewhat vague * Conclusion attempts to restate the essay’s thesis and claim * Conclusion attempts to offer a final thought, though the significance of the argument is unclear | * Intro begins with a weak attempt at an attention getter, or no attempt at all * Intro contains an unoriginal thesis statement, or no thesis statement at all * Conclusion poorly restates or fails to restate the essay’s thesis and claim * Conclusion poorly offers or fails to offer a final thought regarding the significance of the argument |
| **Development**  **40%** | * Body paragraphs contain well-chosen, highly relevant textual evidence to support the thesis * Each quote/paraphrase is seamlessly integrated in the body paragraphs * Each quote/paraphrase is thoroughly explained and connected to the thesis * Organizational pattern is well-chosen and enhances the development of the thesis statement * Addresses the counterclaim fairly and thoroughly | * Body paragraphs contain appropriate and relevant textual evidence to support the thesis * Each quote/paraphrase is appropriately integrated in the body paragraphs * Each quote/paraphrase is explained and connected to the thesis * Organizational pattern is appropriate and aids the development of the thesis statement * Addresses the counterclaim briefly without development | * Body paragraphs contain somewhat appropriate and relevant textual evidence that partially supports the thesis * There is an attempted to integrate each quote/paraphrase in the body paragraphs * Most quotes/paraphrased are somewhat explained, though the connection to the thesis is somewhat unclear * Organizational pattern is poorly chosen and impedes the development of the thesis statement * Counterclaim is present | * Body paragraphs contain superficial textual evidence that hardly supports the thesis and claim * Quotes/paraphrases are not integrated in the body paragraphs * Quotes/paraphrases are minimally explained but not connected to the thesis or claim * No use of quotes/paraphrases * Lack of a clear organizational pattern * Lack of counterclaim |
| **Craft & Language**  **20%** | * Skillful use of appropriate and varied transitions between ideas * Precise vocabulary used to establish complexity of the thesis * Formal, 3rd person voice used effectively throughout the essay * Essay written consistently in present tense | * Use of appropriate transitions between ideas * Appropriate vocabulary used to begin to establish the complexity of the thesis * Formal, 3rd person voice used mostly throughout the essay * Essay written mostly in present tense | * Use of transitions between most ideas * Somewhat appropriate vocabulary used that merely hints at the complexity of the thesis * Formal, 3rd person voice used inconsistently throughout the essay * Essay only partially written in present tense | * Limited to no use of transitions between ideas * Bland vocabulary used that does not suggest the complexity of the thesis * Informal voice used throughout the essay * Essay written inappropriately in past or future tense |
| **Conventions**  **20%** | * Proper MLA formatting used throughout essay * All quotes/paraphrases are accompanied with proper MLA parenthetical citations * Essay contains no mechanical errors that distract from the text’s meaning | * Proper MLA formatting mostly used throughout the essay * All quotes/paraphrases are accompanied with citations, though they are not always correct * Essay contains few mechanical errors that rarely distract from the text’s meaning | * Proper MLA formatting hardly used throughout the essay * Some quotes/paraphrases are missing a citation * Essay contains several mechanical errors that distract from the text’s meaning | * Improper formatting used throughout the essay * Most or all quotes/citations are missing a citation * Essay contains an abundance of mechanical errors that completely distract from the text’s meaning |