

ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY RUBRIC

GRADE 8

Name: _____

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. Essay is organized into multiple sections that creatively and intelligently build up to support a unique and complex argument. 20	Essay maintains a clear, relevant and logical organization. Multiple sections (groups of paragraphs) work together to form an argument. 15	Essay maintains a mostly clear and logical organization. Simple paragraphs are used (rather than multiple sections). 10	Essay does not maintain a clear and logical organization. Simple paragraphs are used in a disorganized manner. 5
Introduction	Introductory section provides a strong opening, context and a complex and original thesis statement. The thesis includes details that preview the rest of the essay. 20	Introductory section provides a strong opening, context and a thesis statement. The thesis includes details that preview the rest of the essay. 15	Introductory section provides a strong opening, adequate context and a clear thesis statement. 10	Introductory section contains some context and an unclear thesis statement 5
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 using quotes and citations . 20	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. 15	Student supports their thesis statement with some clear and relevant examples from credible sources using quotes and citations . Evidence attempts to acknowledge and refute alternate or opposing points of view but does so unclearly. 10	Student supports their thesis statement with few clear and relevant examples from credible sources using quotes and citations . No alternate points are discussed. 5
Conclusion	Essay provides a concluding statement that summarizes the major points, explains their significance, and builds to new ideas and insights. The conclusion continues to use quotes and sources to support its claims. 20	Essay provides a concluding statement that summarizes the major points, explains their significance, and builds to new ideas and insights. 15	Essay provides mostly summary and explanation but offers few new ideas and insights. 10	Essay provides mostly summary and offers little explanation and no new ideas and insights. 5
Style (Language Choice & Conventions)	Uses strong words, transitional phrases and complex sentences throughout . Grammatical conventions are followed successfully (95% accuracy) 20	Frequently uses strong words, transitional phrases and complex sentences. Grammatical conventions are usually followed with success (85% accuracy) 15	Sometimes uses strong words, transitional phrases and complex sentences. Grammatical conventions are sometimes followed (75% accuracy) 10	Rarely uses strong words, transitional phrases and complex sentences. Grammatical conventions are rarely followed (65% accuracy) 5

Comments: _____

Total: _____ / 100 points