Argumentative Essay Rubric

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| **Scoring** | **Exemplary**  (A or high B paper) | **Proficient**  (Low B or C paper) | **Emerging**  (D or F paper) |
| **Ideas/ Content**  **Introduction** | An effective “Hook” is used.  Background information about the topic  is given so that the argument is clearly defined.  The “Thesis” or the author’s side of  the argument is clear and easy to see. | The argument is stated.  The author’s “Thesis statement” is  also present | It is difficult to tell what the issue is  and what author’s side of the argument will be. |
| **Ideas/ Content**  **Body** | Claims are supported with logical  reasoning and relevant evidence.  Accurate, credible sources are used  from a wide variety of media. The  persuasive appeal “Logos” (Logic)  is used effectively.  Counter- argument is clear. | Claims are supported with  logical reasoning and  relevant evidence, but there  are only a few pieces of  supporting evidence for each  claim. Some “Logos” (logic)  is used. Counter-  argument is there. | Claims are made, but there is little  evidence to support the claims.  No counter argument is mentioned. |
| **Ideas/Content**  **Conclusion** | Concluding statement follows  and supports the argument  presented. | Concluding paragraph is  present and most of it  supports the argument  presented in the essay. | Concluding paragraph may or may not be  present, but it doesn’t support the  claims mentioned in the essay. |
| **Bibliography** | Bibliography citations are in proper,  MLA format. Notations include a short  overview of the article/ source and your  thoughts on it and how helpful it was. | Bibliography citations are in  proper MLA format. | There may or may not be a bibliography,  but it is not in the proper format. |
| **Word Choice** | Argumentative/ persuasive language is  used by the writer to effectively show  the relationship between arguments and  counterarguments, claims, reasons, and  evidence. | The writer uses persuasive/  argumentative language  to argue his or her side. It  is somewhat effective. | There is little to no effectiveness in the  language used by the writer to argue  his or her side. |
| **Spelling/ Grammar** | There are very few grammar/ spelling  Errors. | There are 3 to 5 grammar and  spelling errors. | There are more than 6 grammar and  spelling errors. |
| **Organization** | Essay has an introduction, body, and  conclusion. Argument is laid out in a  logical, clear manner. Supporting sentences  relate to the paragraph topics. | Essay has an introduction, body,  and a conclusion. Most of the  sentences in each paragraph  clearly support the paragraph’s  topic. | The essay has one part or more missing.  The argument is difficult to follow because  most of the sentences do not relate to  the topics of the paragraphs they’re in. |