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 topicis given so that the argument is clearly defined.The “Thesis” or the author’s side ofthe argument is clear and easy to see. | The argument is stated.The author’s “Thesis statement” isalso present | It is difficult to tell what the issue isand what author’s side of the argument will be. |
| **Ideas/ Content****Body** | Claims are supported with logicalreasoning and relevant evidence.Accurate, credible sources are used from a wide variety of media. Thepersuasive 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 eachclaim. Some “Logos” (logic)is used. Counter-argument is there. | Claims are made, but there is littleevidence to support the claims.No counter argument is mentioned. |
| **Ideas/Content****Conclusion** | Concluding statement followsand 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 bepresent, 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 yourthoughts on it and how helpful it was. | Bibliography citations are inproper 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 andcounterarguments, claims, reasons, and evidence. | The writer uses persuasive/argumentative languageto argue his or her side. Itis somewhat effective. | There is little to no effectiveness in thelanguage used by the writer to arguehis or her side. |
| **Spelling/ Grammar** | There are very few grammar/ spelling Errors. | There are 3 to 5 grammar andspelling errors. | There are more than 6 grammar and spelling errors. |
| **Organization** | Essay has an introduction, body, andconclusion. Argument is laid out in a logical, clear manner. Supporting sentencesrelate to the paragraph topics. | Essay has an introduction, body,and a conclusion. Most of the sentences in each paragraph clearly support the paragraph’stopic. | The essay has one part or more missing.The argument is difficult to follow becausemost of the sentences do not relate to the topics of the paragraphs they’re in. |