

Sample Template for an Assessment Rubric of an Argumentative Essay

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Points	3	2	1	0	Score
Organization	The essay has a natural, logical, and compelling progression of ideas. The structure is clear and enhances the central idea and readability of the text. The text utilizes transitions gracefully throughout the essay.	Overall, the paper has a natural, logical progression of ideas. The flow of ideas makes sense and enhances readability. There is evidence of strong transitions throughout the text.	The essay has an awkward progression of ideas, yet the reader can read the text without much confusion. There is the sporadic use of transitions in parts of the essay.	There is an unclear and illogical arrangement of the text. There is evidence of a lack of direction. There is a loose or random use of ideas and details. The text lacks an identifiable internal essay structure, which complicates the flow of	-

				thought. The text has a few transitions that have been used loosely and randomly.	
Formatting	There is a well-developed sentence structure throughout the essay. There is a correct use of punctuation and capitalization.	Overall, the sentence structure is correct. However, there is evidence of some awkward sentences in parts of the essay. There is also evidence of punctuation and	The essay is poorly structured and has notable grammatical errors. There is evidence of punctuation and capitalization errors.	The essay has multiple incorrect sentence structures. There are plenty of punctuation and capitalization errors.	-

		capitalization errors.			
Content	The essay's content is well-developed with three or more main arguments and supporting details. There is a counter-argument paragraph with at least two claims. There is a refutation paragraph(s) that acknowledges	The essay has three or more main arguments but without sufficient supporting details. There is a counter-argument paragraph. There is a refutation paragraph that acknowledges the counter-argument but does not summarize the main	The essay has three or more main arguments that are not well-developed. There is a counter-argument with a vague claim. There is a refutation paragraph that does not acknowledge the counter-argument.	The essay has less than three main arguments, which are not well-developed. There is neither a counter-argument nor a refutation paragraph.	-

	the counter-argument and summarizes the main arguments.	arguments.			
Thesis	The essay has a structured thesis statement. The introduction is well-developed and contextualizes the thesis.	The essay has a clear thesis. The introduction offers some background information that connects with the thesis.	The essay has a thesis, but the introduction offers no background information that helps to contextualize the thesis.	The essay has a vague thesis. The background information in the introduction seems random and does not relate to the stated thesis.	-
					Final Score: _____