Name: Periods: Due Date:

**Argumentative Essay Rubric**

*Writing Content*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **0** | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** |
| **Thesis** |  |  | * - Relevant thesis * - Addresses prompt * - Most ideas are understandable | - Defensible thesis  - Addresses prompt  - Ideas and writing are understandable | * - Defensible thesis * - Completely addresses prompt * - [Clarified in scope](http://www.achievementfirst.org/fileadmin/templates/afhs/rubric/definitions/def-clarified-in-scope.php) * - Ideas and writing are understandable | * - Defensible, slightly nuanced thesis * -Encompasses full depth and breadth of assertions * - Clarified in scope * - [Ideas and writing are clear](http://www.achievementfirst.org/fileadmin/templates/afhs/rubric/definitions/def-ideas-and-writing-are-clear.php) |
| **Assertions** |  | * - Most assertions present * - Most assertions relevant to prompt | * - All assertions support thesis * - Assertion sequence may be arbitrary * - Most ideas are understandable | * - All assertions support thesis * - Assertion sequence may be arbitrary * - Some assertions [clarified in scope](http://www.achievementfirst.org/fileadmin/templates/afhs/rubric/definitions/def-clarified-in-scope.php) * - [Ideas and writing are understandable](http://www.achievementfirst.org/fileadmin/templates/afhs/rubric/definitions/def-ideas-and-writing-are-understandable.php) | * - Defensible assertions support thesis * - Intentional assertion sequence may not be effective * - Assertions clarified in scope when necessary * - Ideas and writing are understandable | - Defensible assertions provide distinct support  - Intentional assertion sequence may not be effective  - Assertions clarified in scope when necessary  - [Ideas and writing are clear](http://www.achievementfirst.org/fileadmin/templates/afhs/rubric/definitions/def-ideas-and-writing-are-clear.php) |
| **Evidence Selection** |  | * - Connected to assertion * - Adequate in amount | * - Directly relevant to assertion * - Adequate in amount | * - Strongly, accurately supports assertion * - Adequate in amount | * - Persuasive, strong, accurate support for assertion * - Appropriate in amount * - Appropriate number of sources | * - Persuasive, strong, accurate support for assertion * - Appropriate in amount * - Above and beyond incorporation of outside sources |

**Defensible:** A thesis statement is defensible if a) an opposing argument / alternative view can reasonably be argued (even if it's the weaker argument) and b) it is not an obvious truth about the content / text.

**Clarified in scope**: If an assertion is "clarified in scope," then the statement limits the scope of the argument by providing context. Typically, this means that the assertion answers one or more of these questions: how, when, why, in what circumstances. This might also include defining unclear terms or being more specific.

**Adequate in amount:** At least two pieces of evidence per paragraph.

**Appropriate in amount:** Enough evidence to fully prove the argument.

*Writing Form*

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **0** | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** |
| **Organization** |  | * - Most body paragraphs present * - Body paragraphs include most core components | * - Reasonable essay structure * - Body paragraphs include almost all [core components](http://www.achievementfirst.org/fileadmin/templates/afhs/rubric/definitions/def-core-components-of-a-body-paragraph.php) | * - Reasonable essay structure * - Body paragraphs include almost all core components * - Present intro, conclusion | * - Reasonable essay structure * - Sequence of logical body paragraphs support thesis * - Appropriately structured intro, conclusion | * - Strong organizational structure moves reader through text * - Intentional paragraph sequence logically advances argument * - Inviting introduction draws reader in * - Conclusion provides sense of closure |

**Core components:** The body paragraph includes:

   Assertion, Context, Evidence, Analysis, Context, Evidence, Analysis, Transition

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **0** | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** |
| **MLA Formatting** |  | Paper is **missing 4** or more of the following:  - 12 point font size (Calibri, Arial, Times New Roman)  - Text is left aligned  - Paragraphs are indented once  - Title is centered and professional  - Double-spaced throughout  - Correct header  - Correctly quoted and cited evidence | Paper is **missing 3** of the following:  - 12 point font size (Calibri, Arial, Times New Roman)  - Text is left aligned  - Paragraphs are indented once  - Title is centered and professional  - Double-spaced throughout  - Correct header  - Correctly quoted and cited evidence | Paper is **missing 1 – 2** of the following:  - 12 point font size (Calibri, Arial, Times New Roman)  - Text is left aligned  - Paragraphs are indented once  - Title is centered and professional  - Double-spaced throughout  - Correct header  - Correctly quoted and cited evidence | Paper includes **all** of the following:  - 12 point font size (Calibri, Arial, Times New Roman)  - Text is left aligned  - Paragraphs are indented once  - Title is centered and professional  - Double-spaced throughout  - Correct header  - Correctly quoted and cited evidence |