

Argumentative Paper Rubric

Element	Advanced	On-Target	Novice
Prewriting W5	Your prewriting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is accomplished with use of a graphic organizer and a rough draft. 	Your prewriting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is accomplished with either a graphic organizer or a rough draft. 	Your prewriting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consists of a partial or an incomplete graphic organizer.
Content & Organization W1	Your paper: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creates a unified and persuasive argument; every sentence supports the key claim. Contains a topic sentence with a debatable claim and summary of the evidence. Employs multiple evidence types, including two secondary sources; evidence effectively proves the claim. All sources are credible and properly cited. Includes commentary that intricately and complexly explains how the evidence proves the claim. All paragraphs are organized in the block format. Shifts seamlessly back and forth between evidence and commentary. Consistently connects key ideas using transition words and phrases. 	Your paper: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creates a fairly unified and persuasive argument; almost all sentences support the key claim. Contains a topic sentence with a debatable claim and summary of the evidence. Employs a variety of evidence types, including two secondary sources; evidence effectively proves the claim. Most sources are credible and properly cited. Includes commentary that explains how the evidence proves the claim. Most paragraphs are organized in the block format. Logically flows between evidence and commentary. Attempts to connect key ideas using transition words and phrases. 	Your paper: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Struggles to create a unified and persuasive argument; multiple sentences do not directly support the key claim. Contains a topic sentence with either a debatable claim or summary of the evidence, but not both. Employs only one evidence type; evidence does not clearly prove the claim. Sources are not credible; citations are missing or incorrect. Commentary missing or does not fully explain how the evidence proves the claim. Does not have a clear organizational format. Struggles to organize evidence and commentary in a logical manner. Does not employ transition words and phrases; or does so only occasionally.
Style & Mechanics L2	Your paper: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Always uses punctuation, capitalization, and spelling correctly to clarify meaning and enrich sentence structure. (There are no errors in paper) Consistently maintains a formal voice. Is formatted correctly. (Times New Roman, 12pt font, left aligned, and double spaced) 	Your paper: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generally uses punctuation, capitalization, and spelling correctly to clarify meaning and enrich sentence structure. (There are 3-5 errors in paper) Maintains a formal voice throughout with only occasional lapses. Is formatted correctly. (Times New Roman, 12pt font, left aligned, and double spaced) 	Your paper: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contains errors in punctuation, capitalization, and spelling. (There are 6 or more errors in paper) Is written in an informal voice. Is not formatted correctly. (Times New Roman, 12pt font, left aligned, and double spaced)
Process Checklist	The writer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-wrote to discover ideas for a debatable claim. Drafted to organize and analyze evidence and devise commentary. Revised his/her draft to achieve greater coherency and clarity. Edited for sentence-level clarity and an error-free essay. 		

