Argumentative Essay Writing Rubric Criteria (Grades 6-11)		
Statement of Purpose/ Focus and Organization Weight: 40%	**Evidence/Elaboration Weight: 40%**	**Editing/Conventions Weight: 20%**
The response is fully sustained and consistently and purposefully focused: • claim is clearly stated, focused, and strongly maintained • claim is introduced and communicated appropriately for the purpose, audience, and task • alternate or opposing claims are clearly addressed (grades 7-11) The response has a clear and effective organizational structure creating unity and completeness: • a variety of transitional strategies is consistently used to effectively clarify the relationships between and among ideas • progression of ideas from beginning to end is logical • introduction and conclusion are effective for audience and purpose • appropriate sentence structure variety produces strong connections among ideas	The response provides thorough and convincing support/evidence for the writer's claim that includes the effective use of sources, facts, and details. The response achieves substantial depth that is specific and relevant: • claims are supported with relevant evidence from credible sources and clear reasoning • use of evidence from sources is smoothly integrated, cited, comprehensive, and concrete • a variety of effective elaborative techniques is used The response demonstrates strategic use of language to produce clear communication: • precise language clearly and effectively expresses ideas • use of academic and domain-specific vocabulary is clearly appropriate for the audience and purpose	The response displays adequate command of all grade level and preceding level conventions of writing: • some errors in usage and sentence formation may be present, but no systematic pattern of errors is displayed • use of punctuation, capitalization, and spelling is adequate

References and Citations

When referring to evidence and information from passages, students should use paraphrasing and short quotations. To credit sources, students should use informal, in-text citations (e.g., MLA author or title tags).

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