

Final Argumentative Essay Rating Scale

Name: _____

“They say” (Ongoing Debate): 10 points

- 10 9 8 Includes at least 3 different perspectives (they say) on the issue. Main points from a variety of viewpoints are introduced. Creative/original insights; goes beyond obvious and basic commentary.
- 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0 Includes main ideas, but may not be complete. Does not include at least 3 different perspectives. Summaries lack details, are inaccurate, and/or do not reflect a variety of viewpoints.

“I say” (Thesis and Argument): 25 points

- 25 24 23 22 Clear thesis that presents an argument. Main points are introduced clearly. Creative/original ideas and insights; goes beyond obvious and basic commentary. Reasons are supported by evidence. Presents a logical argument. “So What? Who Cares?” factor is addressed well.
- 21 20 19 18 17 Thesis is somewhat clear and argument is somewhat supported with concrete evidence and commentary. Ideas may be obvious or basic. Mostly logical argument.
- 16 14 12 10 No thesis evident or thesis not justified by the rest of essay. Thesis is not argumentative; it is fact or summary. Ideas/evidence not well explained. Evidence not used to connect to the argument in the essay. “So What? Who Cares?” is unclear.
- 8 6 4 2 1 0

“Naysayers” (Opposing Views): 10 points

- 10 9 8 Most relevant alternative views are acknowledged and effectively addressed.
- 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0 Ineffective in acknowledging and/or addressing the opposing views.

Structure and Organization: 10 points

- 10 9 8 Introduction grabs attention and provides appropriate background information. Conclusion restates arguments in new language and connects ideas to the big picture. Creative title. Good organization including appropriate transitions. Essay is coherent and unified. Paper is about 6-8 pages in length.
- 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0 Introduction does not introduce required information. Doesn't fit with argument of the essay. Conclusion does not restate main ideas/thesis, or it does not fit with the argument. No title. Problems with organization and/or transitions. Essay is confusing and/or not unified. Paper is too short or too long.

Research and Documentation: 25 pts.

- 15 14 13 Excellent evidence is used to support argument. Adequate amount and effective integration of research (minimum of 5 credible sources including 1 scholarly source). Sources are properly acknowledged with in-text citations and are identified on a works cited page using the MLA format.
- 12 11 10 9 8 Some evidence provided from a variety of sources. Sources are not always appropriately acknowledged using MLA format. May not include 1 scholarly source.
- 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0 Insufficient research and/or overreliance on sources. Missing scholarly sources. Problems with formatting of parenthetical citations, works cited page, and MLA/APA format.

10 9 8	Credibility of sources is clearly established. Excellent use of direct quotation, summaries, and paraphrases. Quotations sandwiches used effectively.
7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0	Credibility of sources is unclear. Integration of research needs work. Use of direct quotation, summaries, and paraphrases need work. Ineffective use of quotation sandwiches.

Style, Vocabulary, Sentence Structure 10 pts.

10 9 8	Sophisticated vocabulary and excellent sentence variety.
7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0	Word choices could be improved (more specific, accurate, varied, sophisticated). Problems with sentence clarity, redundancy; some vague sentences; little sentence variety.

Spelling and Grammar 10 pts.

10 9 8	Very few problems with grammar, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.
7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0	Problems with grammar, spelling, and/or punctuation. Errors may interfere with understanding of the text.

Total Points Received: _____ **Points**
(100 Points Possible)

Essay Grade: _____

COMMENTS: