**Argument Analysis Rubric**

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| Category | 1  Below Standards | 2  Approaches Standards | 3  Meets Standards | 4  Exceeds Standards |
| Introduction Strategy | ❍The introductory paragraph is underdeveloped and the topic is unclear, or mention of it is minimal to non-existent. | ❍The introductory paragraph somewhat identifies the topic of the paper. Additionally, the writer does little to entice readers to read more or to empathize with the topic. | ❍The introductory paragraph identifies the topic of the paper. The writer attempts to entice readers to empathize with the topic. | ❍The introductory paragraph creatively identifies the topic of the paper. The writer artfully entices readers to read more and/or to empathize with the topic. |
| Position/Thesis Statement | ❍The thesis statement is off topic or non-existent. The writer’s position is not conveyed to readers. | ❍The thesis statement is vague and does not clearly convey the writer’s position. The direction of the paper’s development is unclear. | ❍The thesis statement is clear and generally reveals the writer’s position on the paper, with some direction for further development. | ❍The thesis statement is well written and specifically reveals the writer’s position on the paper, along with a clear direction for development. |
| Summary | ❍No summarization of the primary sources is present, OR the entire essay is a summary. | ❍The writer provides one or two sentences of summary but the placement is somewhat inappropriate. | ❍The writer summarizes the primary source well and attempts to focus on how it is related to the main idea of the argument. | ❍The writer summarizes the primary article succinctly and focuses on how it is related to the main idea of the argument. |
| Essay Structure | ❍The essay lacks structure. The entire essay consists of one or two long paragraphs and claims that do not relate back to the thesis sentence or argument. | ❍The essay is somewhat unified. Some key words are repeated but the paragraphs and claims reflect the thesis sentences and/or argument in a vague way. | ❍The essay is mostly unified. Key words are repeated and the paragraphs and claims reflect the thesis sentences and/or argument in a general way. | ❍The essay structure is unified. Well-chosen and appropriate key words are repeated often and claims clearly and consistently reflect the thesis/argument. |
| Argument Structure | ❍The argument is hard to determine. | ❍The argument is present, but not central to the paper. | ❍The argument is present in most paragraphs. | ❍The argument is clearly established in all paragraphs. |
| Counter Argument | ❍There is no counter argument. | ❍The counter arguments is present, but underdeveloped. | ❍The counter argument is clearly incorporated. | ❍The counter argument is eloquently incorporated. |
| Closing Strategy | ❍There is no conclusion, the paper just ends. | ❍The writer’s position is vaguely restated with no attempt to recap the main points of the essay. | ❍The conclusion is recognizable. The writer’s position is restated and there is some recap of main pts. | ❍The conclusion is strong. The writer recaps all major points succinctly leaving reader with a lasting impression. |
| Sentence Structure | ❍Few sentences are well structured. Awkward syntax. | ❍Most sentences are functional, a few basic errors. | ❍Most sentences are well structured but hardly varied | ❍All sentences are well-structured and varied. |
| Grammar & Spelling | ❍Errors are significant and distracting to the paper. | ❍Frequent minor errors exist slightly prohibiting meaning. | ❍Some minor errors that slightly prohibit meaning. | ❍1-2 minor errors that do not prohibit meaning. |