

CCSS Argumentative Writing Rubric

Score	Statement of Purpose/Focus	Organization	Elaboration of Evidence	Language and Vocabulary	Conventions
4 S T R O N G	Claim is clearly stated, focused and strongly maintained	<i>Response has a clear and effective organizational structure creating unity and completeness</i>	<i>Response provides thorough and convincing support/evidence (sources, facts, details) for the controlling idea</i>	Use of academic and domain-specific vocabulary is clearly appropriate for the audience and purpose	Few, if any, errors are present in usage and sentence formation
	Alternate or opposing claims are clearly addressed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective & consistent use of a variety of transitional strategies • Effective introduction and conclusion • Logical progression of ideas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of evidence from sources is smoothly integrated and comprehensive • Effective use of a variety of elaborative techniques 	The response clearly and effectively expresses ideas, using precise language	Effective and consistent use of punctuation, capitalization, and spelling
3 A D E Q U A T E	Claim is clear and mostly well-maintained, though some loosely related material may be present	<i>Response has an evident organizational structure and a basic sense of completeness</i>	<i>Response provides adequate support/evidence (sources, facts, details) for the controlling idea</i>	The response adequately expresses ideas, using a mix of precise with more general language	Some errors in usage and sentence formation may be present, but no systematic pattern of errors displayed
	Alternate or opposing claims may be mentioned or partially addressed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate use of transitional strategies with some variety • Adequate introduction and conclusion • Adequate progression of ideas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some evidence from sources is integrated, though citations may be general or imprecise • Adequate use of some elaborative techniques 	Use of domain-specific vocabulary is generally appropriate for the audience and purpose	Adequate use of punctuation, capitalization, and spelling
2 F L A W E D	May be clearly focused on the claim but is insufficiently sustained	<i>Response has an inconsistent, flawed organizational structure</i>	<i>The response provides uneven, partial, or unconvincing support/evidence (sources, facts, details) for the controlling idea</i>	The response expresses ideas unevenly, using simplistic language	Frequent errors in usage may obscure meaning
	Claim on the issue may be somewhat unclear and unfocused	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inconsistent use of basic transitional strategies with little variety • Introduction and conclusion (if present) are weak • Uneven progression of ideas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence is weakly integrated, and citations, if present, are uneven and inappropriate • Weak or uneven use of elaborative techniques 	Use of domain-specific vocabulary may at times be inappropriate for the audience and the purpose	Inconsistent use of punctuation, capitalization, and spelling
1 A B S E N T	May be very brief or have a major drift	<i>Response has little or no discernible organizational structure</i>	<i>Response provides minimal to no support /evidence</i>	Uses limited language or domain-specific vocabulary	Errors are frequent and severe and meaning is often obscure
	Claim may be confusing or ambiguous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Few or no transitional strategies are evident • Frequent extraneous ideas may intrude 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of evidence from sources is minimal, absent, in error, or irrelevant • No elaborative techniques are used 	May have little sense of audience and purpose	

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