

Argumentative

Claim and Focus

Take an arguable stance on the issue and develop the essay around that stance.

Advanced

The essay introduces an interesting, clear, arguable, and precise claim, based on the topic or text(s). The essay maintains strong focus on the purpose and task, using the whole essay to support and develop the claim and counterclaims fairly while thoroughly addressing the demands of the prompt.

Proficient

The essay introduces a clear, arguable, and specific claim, based on the topic or text(s). The essay maintains focus on the purpose and task, using most of the essay to support and develop the claim and counterclaims while thoroughly addressing the demands of the prompt.

Developing

The essay introduces a claim, based on the topic or text(s), but it may be somewhat unclear or not maintained throughout the essay. The essay may not fully address the demands of the prompt or stay focused on the purpose and task. The writing may stray off topic at times. Counterclaims may not be presented evenly and/or objectively.

Emerging

The essay does not clearly make a claim, or the claim is overly simplistic or vague. The essay does not maintain focus on purpose and task. The essay does not address counterclaims.

Support and Evidence

Explain relevant facts, definitions, and examples to back up the claim.

The essay cites the most relevant, appropriate, and valid evidence to support its claim and counterclaims while fully explaining how the cited evidence and reasons support the claim. The essay demonstrates reasoning and full understanding of the topic or text(s), thoroughly stating the strengths and weaknesses of both the claim and counterclaims. Counterclaims are acknowledged and/or distinguished from the essay's central claim.

The essay uses clear, relevant, and appropriate evidence related to the claim and counterclaims while explaining how the evidence supports the claim. The essay demonstrates logical reasoning and understanding of the topic or text(s) and states some strengths and weaknesses of both the claim and counterclaims. Counterclaims are acknowledged but may be only generally explained and/or distinguished from the essay's central claim.

The essay uses some evidence but may not precisely explain how it supports the claim and/or the claim is not properly distinguished from the counterclaim. The essay includes some reasoning and demonstrates a superficial understanding of the topic or text(s), but the strengths and weaknesses of the claim and counterclaims may be confusing, unclear, or absent.

The essay does not use clear or relevant evidence or reasoning to support the claim or to demonstrate an understanding of the topic or text(s) or uses very little evidence from the source. Counterclaims are not acknowledged, addressed, or distinguished from the claim.

Organization

Explain your position using transitions and a strong introduction and conclusion.

The essay incorporates an organizational structure with clear transitional words and phrases that enhances the relationships between and among ideas (i.e. claim and evidence, claim and counterclaim, strengths and weaknesses). The essay includes a logical progression of ideas from beginning to end, including an effective introduction and conclusion which follows from and supports the argument presented.

The essay incorporates an organizational structure with clear transitional words and phrases that show the relationships between and among ideas (i.e. claim and evidence, claim and counterclaim, strengths and weaknesses). The essay includes a progression of ideas from beginning to end, including an introduction and concluding statement or section.

The essay uses a basic organizational structure but relationships between and among ideas are not consistently clear, including the explanation of the claim and the counterclaims or their strengths and weaknesses. The essay moves from beginning to end; however, an introduction and/or conclusion may be overly formulaic, repetitious, or missing.

The essay does not have a clear organizational structure and may simply offer a series of ideas without any clear transitions or connections. An introduction and conclusion are not evident.