Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Argument Writing Rubric**

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|  | **Excellent-4** | **Proficient-3** | **Developing-2** | **Not present-1** |
| Statement of  Purpose/  Focus | The response is fully sustained and consistently and purposefully focused:  -Clam is focused, clearly stated, and strongly maintained  -Alternate or opposing claims are clearly addressed  -Claim is introduced and communicated clearly within the context | The response is adequately sustained and generally focused:  -claim is clear and for the most part maintained, though some loosely related material may be present  -context provided for the claim is adequate | The response is somewhat sustained and may have a minor drift in focus:  -may be clearly focused on the claim but insufficiently sustained  -claim on the issue may be somewhat unclear and unfocused | The response may be related to the purpose but may offer little relevant detail:  -may be very brief  -may have a major drift  -claim may be confusing or ambiguous |
| Organization | The response has a clear and effective organizational structure creating unity and completeness:  -effective, consistent use of a variety of transitional strategies  -logical progression of ideas from beginning to the end  -effective introduction and conclusion for audience and purpose  -strong connections among ideas, with some syntactic variety | The response has an evident organizational structure and a sense of completeness, though there may be minor flaws and some ideas may be loosely connected:  -adequate use of transitional strategies with some variety  -adequate progression of ideas from beginning to end  -adequate progression of ideas introduction and conclusion  -adequate, if slightly inconsistent, connection among ideas | The response has an inconsistent organizational structure, and flaws are evident  -inconsistent use of basic transitional strategies with little variety  -uneven progression of ideas from beginning to end  -conclusion and introduction, if present, are weak  -weak connection among ideas | The response has little or no discernible organizational structure:  -few or no transitional strategies are evident  -frequent extraneous ideas may intrude |
| Elaboration  of Evidence | The response provides thorough and convincing support/evidence for the writer’s claim that included effective sources, facts and details. The response achieves substantial depth that is specific and relevant:  -use of evident from sources is smoothly integrated, comprehensive, relevant, and concrete  -effect use of a variety of elaborative techniques | The response provides adequate support/evidence for the writer’s claim that includes the use of sources, facts, and details. The response achieves some depth and specificity but is predominantly general:  -some evidence from sources is integrated, though citations may be general or imprecise  -adequate use of some elaborative techniques | The response provides uneven, cursory support/evidence for the writer’s claim that includes partial or uneven use of sources, facts, and details, and achieves little depth:  -evidence from source is weakly integrated, and citations, if present, are uneven  -weak or uneven use of elaborative techniques | The response provides minimal support/evidence for the writer’s claim that included little or no use of sources, facts, and details:  -use of evidence from sources is minimal, absent, in error, or irrelevant |
| Language and Vocabulary | The response clearly and effectively expresses ideas, using precise language:  -use of academic and domain-specific vocabulary is clearly appropriate for the audience and purpose | The response adequately expresses ideas, employing a mix of precise with more general language:  -use of domain-specific vocabulary is generally appropriate for the audience and purpose | The response expresses ideas unevenly, using simplistic language:  -use of domain-specific vocabulary may at times be inappropriate for the audience and purpose | The response expresses ion of ideas is vague, lacks clarity, or is confusing:  -uses limited language or domain-specific vocabulary  -may have little sense of audience and purpose |
| Conventions | The response demonstrates a strong command of conventions:  -a few, if any, errors are present is usage and sentence formation  -effective and consistent use of punctuation, capitalization, and spelling | The response demonstrates an adequate command of conventions:  -some errors in usage and sentence formation may be present, but no systematic pattern of errors is displayed  -adequate use of punctuation, capitalization, and spelling | The response demonstrates a partial command of conventions:  -frequent errors in usage may obscure meaning  -inconsistent use of punctuation, capitalization, and spelling | The response demonstrates a lack of command of conventions:  -errors are frequent and severe and meaning is often obscure |