

# WRITE Institute

## Scoring Guide for Argumentative Essay

In an argumentative essay, the writer has a clear purpose for writing: to convince the reader (or a specific audience) of his or her point of view. The essay must include a focused, debatable claim that is supported by logic and credible evidence. The essay should accurately present opposing views on an issue, as well as counterarguments, in order to influence the reasoning of the reader (audience). The claim should emphasize logic and rational thought. (In some cases, emotion might be an effective technique if it truly supports the claim.)

Scoring Range	
Each category is worth 0-6 points.	
0 = off topic	4 = proficient
1 = minimal evidence of proficiency	5 = exceeding expectations
2 = some evidence of proficiency	6 = outstanding
3 = developing proficiency	

Directions: Add points and divide by 10 to yield a score of 0 - 6.

### CONTENT & ORGANIZATION










- \_\_\_\_\_ The writer targets a specific audience appropriately.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The introduction includes a hook (i.e., statistic, research, etc.).
- \_\_\_\_\_ The introduction includes a precise, knowledgeable claim and establishes its significance.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The writer uses reason (i.e., relevant supporting facts and examples) to support the claim.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The writer acknowledges the opposing claim.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The writer uses a counterclaim to address the opposing claim.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The writer uses specific rhetorical devices (e.g., appeal to logic through reasoning, appeal to emotion) to support assertions.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The conclusion restates the claim and summarizes the key points.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The essay is organized in a logical way.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The essay exhibits an appropriate level of conventions such as sentence structure, grammar and mechanics.
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Total** divided by 10 = \_\_\_\_\_ **Score**

# Student Scoring Guide

## Argumentative Writing

1 = I don't get it	4 = I get it!
2 = I'm having trouble.	5 = I did great!
3 = I'm getting better	6 = I did incredible work!

**Rate yourself on each item below with a score of 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6**

- \_\_\_\_\_ My introduction targets a specific audience. 
- \_\_\_\_\_ I have an interesting fact to hook the reader. 
- \_\_\_\_\_ I have a specific claim. 
- \_\_\_\_\_ I tell why this topic is important. 
- \_\_\_\_\_ I use facts and examples to support my claim. 
- \_\_\_\_\_ I explain the opposing claim and restate why my claim is correct. 
- \_\_\_\_\_ I use logical reasons to support my claim. 
- \_\_\_\_\_ My conclusion restates the claim and restates the main points. 
- \_\_\_\_\_ My essay is organized logically. 
- \_\_\_\_\_ I checked for capitalization and punctuation. 