

## **Argumentative Essay – Rubric**

### **An “A” Paper – Brilliant/Excellent**

- Title is powerful and fully grabs reader’s attention
- Claim fully answers essay prompt with bold and arguable stance
- Each body paragraph represents a reason and sets a clear, powerful path in supporting the claim
- Evidence is insightful, unexpected choices from a variety of high-quality, reputable sources Skillfully uses argumentation to connect evidence with reasons why claim is valid Powerful vocabulary with no repetition of keywords or phrases; always fresh and interesting Excellent sentence flow and variety of sentence structures
- Skillful use of transitions to help create a unified, cohesive piece of writing M.L.A. citations are perfectly formatted and skillfully embedded so the resource information is seamless
- A lively, interesting writer’s voice comes through to the audience

### **A “B” Paper – Good/Above Average**

- Title is appropriate to the topic, but lacks great inspiration
- Claim fully answers essay prompt, but lacks the power of the “A” level claim Each body paragraph logically supports the claim, but doesn’t add as much power as the reader would like to see
- Evidence is appropriate, but somewhat obvious; sources are reliable
- Clear attempts to use argumentation to connect evidence with reasons why claim is valid Good vocabulary that clearly, but not always powerfully, expresses your ideas; you don’t repeat words or phrases
- Smooth sentence flow and occasionally effective sentence variety
- Correct use of transitions for unity and cohesiveness
- M.L.A. citations are correctly formatted and embedded
- The writer’s voice comes through to the audience, but the passion falls flat at times

### **A “C” Paper – Okay/Average**

- Title is flat or predictable
- Claim answers essay prompt, but is too timid, safe, or bland
- Each body paragraph supports the claim, but construction is mechanical Evidence is present, but blatantly obvious; sources are marginal in quality and/or you needed a broader variety of sources
- Attempts to use argumentation to connect evidence with reasons why claim is valid are made, but are a bit clumsy or thin
- Average, simple vocabulary or overly flowery language that blocks meaning at times Sentence flow is choppy at times; limited sentence variety
- Limited use of transitions; at times, an inappropriate transition is used or is missing altogether M.L.A. citations are correctly formatted for the most part, but embedding is clunky/not always handled well
- The writer’s voice is flat, too formal, or rigid. Where’s the passion in your voice?

### **A “D” Paper – Demonstrates Problems/Below Average**

- Title is just a restatement of the title of the work being discussed or just a label Claim does not fully answer the essay prompt; you seem to be struggling with your thoughts Each body paragraph doesn’t clearly connect to the claim and/or includes just stacked data/evidence without argumentation
- Evidence is thin, inaccurate, and/or not connected to the argument
- Rarely uses argumentation to connect evidence with reasons why claim is valid; this is mostly missing
- Flat, below grade-level vocabulary and/or inappropriate word choice
- Flow is mostly choppy and erratic; little or no sentence variety
- Little or no use of transitions
- M.L.A. citations are not correctly formatted or embedded
- No writer’s voice is present. The words are lifeless or robotic.

### **A “F” Paper – Far Below Average**

- Is incomplete, incoherent, undeveloped, or does not meet the requirements of the assignment