

Scoring rubric.

This rubric that is used to evaluate the final arguments crafted by students.

Criteria	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Score
The argument				
Sufficient Claim	A claim is included but it does not answer the research question.	The claim provides a basic answer to the research question but does not explain everything.	The claim answers the research question and explains everything it should.	
Accurate Claim	The claim is completely inaccurate.	The claim includes some inaccurate parts or contradictions.	The claim is completely accurate.	
Genuine Evidence	Inferences are used to support the conclusion (no data or other observations are included).	The conclusion is supported by data or observation but this information is not used to show a difference between groups, a trend over time, or a relationship between variables.	Data that shows a difference between groups, a trend over time, or a relationship between variables is used to support the conclusion.	
Sufficient Evidence	Only a single piece of genuine evidence is used to support the conclusion.	Includes multiple pieces of genuine evidence but not enough to support conclusion overall or each aspect of the conclusion.	Includes enough genuine evidence to support the overall conclusion or each aspect of the conclusion.	
Adequate Rationale	Makes a simple assertion that the support provided “proves it” or it simply refers to the evidence without explaining it.	Explains why the evidence was included or how the evidence supports the claim but not both.	Explains why the evidence was included and how the evidence supports the claim.	
The writing				
Organization	The writing lacks coherence; organization seems haphazard and disjointed.	An attempt has been made to organize the writing; however, the overall structure is	The organization enhances the central idea and its development. The order and	

	The organization is confusing to the reader.	inconsistent or skeletal.	structure are good and moves the reader through the text.	
Sentence Fluency	The writing is difficult to follow or to read aloud. Sentences tend to be incomplete, rambling, or very awkward	The writing tends to be mechanical rather than fluid. Occasional awkward constructions may force the reader to slow down or reread.	The writing has an easy flow and rhythm. Sentences are carefully crafted, with strong and varied structure.	
Word Choice	The writing shows an extremely limited vocabulary, or is filled with so many misused words that the meaning is obscured.	The author does not employ a variety of words, producing a sort of "generic" argument filled with familiar words and phrases.	The author employs a broad range of words that have been carefully chosen and thoughtfully placed for impact.	
Conventions	The author made several grammatical, spelling, punctuation, paragraphing, or capitalization errors.	The author made only one or two grammatical, spelling, punctuation, paragraphing, or capitalization errors.	The author used appropriate grammar, spelling, punctuation, paragraphing, and capitalization.	
			Total:	/27
Comments or suggestions for ways to improve:				