

RUBRIC FOR ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY

	A (95)	B (85)	C (75)
INTRODUCTION	Writer is able to clearly and concisely introduce the topic through analysis and synthesis of existing views/ perspectives	Writer attempts to introduce the topic through analysis and synthesis of existing views/ perspectives	Writer fails to introduce the topic through analysis and synthesis of existing views/ perspectives
THESIS	There is a clearly stated, defensible thesis statement that addresses a central theme of the piece(s)	There is a thesis statement that addresses a central theme of the piece(s), but it may not be clearly stated or easily defensible	Thesis statement is missing, unclear, or indefensible
EVIDENCE	Well-chosen, specific examples from the text(s) offer thesis substantive support	Many examples from the text(s) offer thesis support	Examples from the text(s) are not well-chosen or fail to support thesis
COHESION	The entirety of the essay clearly relates back to the central thesis - the thread of the thesis 'pulls through'	Most of the essay relates back to the central thesis - the thread of the thesis attempts to 'pulls through'	Parts of the essay relate back to the central thesis - the thread of the thesis fails to 'pull through' consistently
SYNTHESIS/ INTERPRETATION	Writer integrates his/her original ideas with ideas from texts, templates, and class discussions	Writer attempts to integrate his/her own original ideas with ideas from texts, templates, and class discussions	Writer fails to integrate his/her own original ideas with ideas from texts, templates, and class discussions
COUNTERARGUMENTS	Writer assesses and addresses counterarguments thoughtfully and effectively	Writer tries to assess and address counterarguments	Writer fails to assess and/or addresses counterarguments
FLUIDITY & TRANSITIONS	Logical and relevant; paper flows easily from one idea to the next - both within and between sentences and paragraphs	Moderately logical and moderately relevant; paper flows well in some places	Lacks relevance and organization; paper does not flow well
MECHANICS	There are very few noticeable and/or distracting mechanical errors	There are few noticeable and/or distracting mechanical errors	There are many noticeable and/or distracting mechanical errors