

English 1301: Argument Essay Rubric

	EXCELLENT 90-100%	GOOD 80-89%	ACCEPTABLE 70-70%	MINIMAL 60-69%	BELOW LEVEL/MISSING 0-59%	Weight
Introduction	Introduction engages readers and establishes context skillfully.	Introduction establishes context adequately.	Introduction provides some context.	Introduction lacks context.	Missing, off-topic or writing below entering college level	50%
Thesis	Thesis is clear, specific, and argumentative.	Thesis is clear and argumentative.	Thesis is present but may be overly broad or simplistic.	Thesis is unclear, missing, or purely informative.	Missing, off-topic or writing below entering college level	
Argument	Presents a nuanced position with sophisticated reasoning. Claims build a compelling case.	Position is evident with solid reasoning. Claims adequately support the argument.	Position lacks some clarity. Claims somewhat support the argument.	Position is difficult to identify. Claims don't support a coherent argument.	Below entering college level	
Evidence & Support	Evidence from all 4+ sources is relevant, credible, and strategically selected.	Evidence from all required sources is relevant and credible.	Evidence from most required sources is present but may be less relevant or poorly chosen.	Insufficient evidence and/or unreliable sources.	Missing, off-topic, or inappropriate.	
Counter-argument	Skillfully addresses opposing viewpoints with fairness and depth. Refutation is logical, respectful, and strengthens the overall argument.	Clearly acknowledges opposing viewpoints. Refutation is logical and adequately responds to counterarguments.	Mentions opposing viewpoints but may oversimplify them. Refutation is present but may be weak or dismissive.	Fails to acknowledge opposing viewpoints or presents them as strawmen. Refutation is missing or illogical.	Missing, off-topic	
Conclusion	Conclusion synthesizes arguments effectively and provides thoughtful implications.	The conclusion summarizes main points and offers closure.	Conclusion restates thesis with minimal synthesis.	Conclusion is abrupt or merely repeats thesis.	Missing, off-topic or writing well below entering college level	
Integration & Discussion of Evidence	Sources are seamlessly integrated with sophisticated analysis connecting evidence to claims.	Sources are well-integrated with clear analysis connecting evidence to claims.	Source integration is mechanical with basic analysis.	Poor integration of sources with minimal analysis.	Missing evidence and/or evidence is dropped in without analysis.	25%

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Organization & Structure	Logical flow with effective transitions between all paragraphs.	Clear organizational structure with transitions between most paragraphs.	Basic organizational structure with some abrupt transitions.	Disorganized structure lacking clear progression.	Confusing to the point of impeding the message	25%
Paragraph Development	Each paragraph has clear topic and concluding sentences that advance the argument. Paragraphs are cohesive, focused, and fully developed.	Most paragraphs have clear topic and concluding sentences. Paragraphs are generally cohesive and adequately developed.	Some paragraphs lack clear topic or concluding sentences. Paragraph unity or development is inconsistent.	Many paragraphs lack topic or concluding sentences. Paragraphs are underdeveloped or unfocused.	Below entering college level	
Language & Style	Academic tone maintained throughout. Precise word choice and varied sentence structure. Language effectively persuades while maintaining objectivity.	Academic tone generally maintained. Mostly precise word choice with some sentence variety. Language is clear and appropriate.	Inconsistent academic tone. Some imprecise language or repetitive sentence structure. Language is sometimes unclear or inappropriate.	Inappropriate tone for academic writing. Imprecise language and simple sentence structure. Language impedes understanding.	Below entering college level	
Grammar & Mechanics	Virtually error-free. Demonstrates mastery of standard written English.	Few minor errors that don't interfere with meaning.	Several grammatical errors that occasionally interfere with meaning.	Numerous errors that significantly interfere with meaning.	Errors seriously impede understanding.	
APA Format & Citations	Perfect APA formatting throughout. In-text citations and References page follow all APA 7th edition guidelines.	Minor APA formatting errors. In-text citations and References page follow most APA 7th edition guidelines.	Several APA formatting errors. In-text citations and References page have consistent patterns of error.	Major APA formatting errors. In-text citations and/or References page severely flawed.	Incorrect or missing.	