

**4-Point Argumentative Performance Task Writing Rubric (Grades 6-11)**

	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>NS</b>
<b>Purpose/Organization</b>	<p>The response has a clear and effective organizational structure, creating a sense of unity and completeness. The response is fully sustained and consistently and purposefully focused:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>claim is introduced, clearly communicated, and the focus is strongly maintained for the purpose, audience, and task</li> <li>consistent use of a variety of transitional strategies to clarify the relationships between and among ideas</li> <li>effective introduction and conclusion</li> <li>logical progression of ideas from beginning to end; strong connections between and among ideas with some syntactic variety</li> <li>alternate and opposing argument(s) are clearly acknowledged or addressed<sup>1</sup></li> </ul>	<p>The response has an evident organizational structure and a sense of completeness, though there may be minor flaws and some ideas may be loosely connected. The response is adequately sustained and generally focused:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>claim is clear, and the focus is mostly maintained for the purpose, audience, and task</li> <li>adequate use of transitional strategies with some variety to clarify relationships between and among ideas</li> <li>adequate introduction and conclusion</li> <li>adequate progression of ideas from beginning to end; adequate connections between and among ideas</li> <li>alternate and opposing argument(s) are adequately acknowledged or addressed<sup>1</sup></li> </ul>	<p>The response has an inconsistent organizational structure, and flaws are evident. The response is somewhat sustained and may have a minor drift in focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>claim may be somewhat unclear, or the focus may be insufficiently sustained for the purpose, audience, and task</li> <li>inconsistent use of transitional strategies and/or little variety</li> <li>introduction or conclusion, if present, may be weak</li> <li>uneven progression of ideas from beginning to end; and/or formulaic; inconsistent or unclear connections among ideas</li> <li>alternate and opposing argument(s) may be confusing or not acknowledged<sup>1</sup></li> </ul>	<p>The response has little or no discernible organizational structure. The response may be related to the claim but may provide little or no focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>claim may be confusing or ambiguous; response may be too brief or the focus may drift from the purpose, audience, or task</li> <li>few or no transitional strategies are evident</li> <li>introduction and/or conclusion may be missing</li> <li>frequent extraneous ideas may be evident; ideas may be randomly ordered or have an unclear progression</li> <li>alternate and opposing argument(s) may not be acknowledged<sup>1</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unintelligible</li> <li>In a language other than English</li> <li>Off-topic</li> <li>Copied text</li> <li>Off-purpose</li> </ul>
<b>Evidence &amp; Elaboration</b>	<p>The response provides thorough and convincing support/evidence for the argument(s) and claim that includes the effective use of sources (facts and details). The response clearly and effectively expresses ideas, using precise language:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>comprehensive evidence from sources is integrated; references are relevant and specific</li> <li>effective use of a variety of elaborative techniques<sup>2</sup></li> <li>vocabulary is clearly appropriate for the audience and purpose</li> <li>effective, appropriate style enhances content</li> </ul>	<p>The response provides adequate support/evidence for the argument(s) and claim that includes the use of sources (facts and details). The response adequately expresses ideas, employing a mix of precise with more general language:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>adequate evidence from sources is integrated; some references may be general</li> <li>adequate use of some elaborative techniques</li> <li>vocabulary is generally appropriate for the audience and purpose</li> <li>generally appropriate style is evident</li> </ul>	<p>The response provides uneven, cursory support/evidence for the argument(s) and claim that includes partial or uneven use of sources (facts and details). The response expresses ideas unevenly, using simplistic language:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>some evidence from sources may be weakly integrated, imprecise, or repetitive; references may be vague</li> <li>weak or uneven use of elaborative techniques; development may consist primarily of source summary or may rely on emotional appeal</li> <li>vocabulary use is uneven or somewhat ineffective for the audience and purpose</li> <li>inconsistent or weak attempt to create appropriate style</li> </ul>	<p>The response provides minimal support/evidence for the argument(s) and claim that includes little or no use of sources (facts and details). The response's expression of ideas is vague, lacks clarity, or is confusing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>evidence from the source material is minimal or irrelevant; references may be absent or incorrectly used</li> <li>minimal, if any, use of elaborative techniques; emotional appeal may dominate</li> <li>vocabulary is limited or ineffective for the audience and purpose</li> <li>little or no evidence of appropriate style</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unintelligible</li> <li>In a language other than English</li> <li>Off-topic</li> <li>Copied text</li> <li>Off-purpose</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> acknowledging and/or addressing the opposing point of view begins at grade 7.

<sup>2</sup> Elaborative techniques may include the use of personal experiences that support the argument(s).

**2-Point Argumentative Performance Task Writing Rubric (Grades 6-11)**

		<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>NS</b>
<b>Conventions</b>	<p>The response demonstrates an adequate command of conventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>adequate use of correct sentence formation, punctuation, capitalization, grammar usage, and spelling</li> </ul>	<p>The response demonstrates a partial command of conventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>limited use of correct sentence formation, punctuation, capitalization, grammar usage, and spelling</li> </ul>	<p>The response demonstrates little or no command of conventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>infrequent use of correct sentence formation, punctuation, capitalization, grammar usage, and spelling</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unintelligible</li> <li>In a language other than English</li> <li>Off-topic</li> <li>Copied text</li> </ul> <p>(Off-purpose responses will still receive a score in Conventions.)</p>	

**Holistic Scoring:**

- Variety:** A range of errors includes formation, punctuation, capitalization, grammar usage, and spelling
- Severity:** Basic errors are more heavily weighted than higher-level errors.
- Density:** The proportion of errors to the amount of writing done well. This includes the ratio of errors to the length of the piece.