

Argument Paragraph

Criteria	(0)	Poor (1)	Fair (2)	Good (3)	Excellent (4)
Claim Sentence		The claim sentence does not state what is being argued, and there is no clear stand taken.	The claim sentence states the topic being argued, but it may not take a clear stand.	The claim sentence is fairly well developed. But it is not very engaging or creative.	Very well developed claim sentence. It engages the reader and creates interest. It clearly states the topic being argued and takes a stand.
Evidence and Reasoning		Reasons for the argument are not stated, or there are obvious fallacies that contradict the details and examples. Perhaps the argument is an unsupported rant.	Reasons for the argument are stated, but there are few concrete and specific details or examples to support the argument adequately or logically.	Reasons for the argument are stated and there are enough details and examples to support the argument adequately and logically.	Reasons for the argument are clearly stated, and there are enough details to support the argument effectively and thoroughly. Concrete and specific examples are presented that effectively support and strengthen the argument.
Counter Claim		Counter claim statement and rebuttal are not complete. Connection between counter claim and rebuttal evidence is hard to discern. 0	Counter claim statement is included but may be weak. Evidence to disprove counter claim is included but lacks concrete, relevant, or specific evidence. Not convincing.	Counter claim statement is fairly well developed but may not be a strong opposing argument. Is disproved with evidence but may not be a strong rebuttal.	A well-developed counter claim statement that addresses a strong opposing argument and then is strongly disproved with concrete, relevant and specific evidence.
Organization/ Structure		No discernible organization. Reasons are either missing or not in any discernible order. They do not support the argument or there are obvious fallacies in the proposed logic.	Reasons are in a discernible order, but there are not enough to effectively support the argument.	Reasons are in a clear, effective order and they adequately support the argument.	Reasons are effectively supported by details and examples that are presented in a very effective order that enhances and strengthens the argument.
Style: sentence flow, tone, and		Writing is confusing and hard to follow. Contains fragments and/or run-on sentences. The tone and purpose is inconsistent and difficult to determine. Transitions are either missing or inappropriate.	Writing is clear, but sentences may lack variety. The tone is inconsistent and word choice, while adequate, could be better. While transitions are present they do not add to the overall effectiveness of the paragraph.	Writing is clear and sentences have varied structure. There is consistent tone and word choice is appropriate with fairly good use of transitions to guide the reader.	Writing is smooth, skillful, and coherent. Sentences are strong and expressive with varied structure. Consistent and appropriate tone and word choice is used throughout the paragraph. Transitions are appropriate and add to the effectiveness of the paragraph.
Mechanics		Distracting and major errors in grammar, punctuation, spelling, and capitalization.	A few errors in punctuation, grammar, spelling, and capitalization that, while distracting, the meaning and intent of the paragraph can still be discerned.	A few minor errors in punctuation, spelling, grammar, or capitalization, but they do not detract from the overall meaning and effectiveness of the paragraph.	No errors in punctuation, spelling, grammar, or capitalization.

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Evidence and Reasoning		Reasons for the argument are not stated, or there are obvious fallacies that contradict the details and examples. Perhaps the argument is an unsupported rant.	Reasons for the argument are stated, but there are few concrete and specific details or examples to support the argument adequately or logically.	Reasons for the argument are stated and there are enough details and examples to support the argument adequately and logically.	Reasons for the argument are clearly stated, and there are enough details to support the argument effectively and thoroughly. Concrete and specific examples are presented that effectively support and strengthen the argument.
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