

AP English: Argument Rubric

Score	Scoring Criteria	Assignment Specific Requirements
9	Essays earning a score of 9 meet the criteria for the score of 8 AND, IN ADDITION, are especially sophisticated in their argument, thorough in their development, or particularly impressive in their control of language.	
8 Effective	Essays earning a score of 8 effectively develop a position on the topic/passage presented in the prompt. The evidence and explanations appropriately and convincingly support the writer's position, and the argument is especially coherent and well developed. The prose demonstrates a consistent ability to control a wide range of the elements of effective writing but is not necessarily flawless.	
7	Essays earning a score of 7 meet the criteria for a score of 6 but provide a more complete explanation, more thorough development, or a more mature prose style.	
6 Adequate	Essays earning a score of 6 adequately develop a position on the topic/passage presented in the prompt. The evidence and explanations appropriately and sufficiently support the writer's position, and the argument is coherent and adequately developed. The writing may contain lapses in diction or syntax, but generally the prose is clear.	
5	Essays earning a score of 5 develop a position on the topic/passage presented in the prompt. The evidence and explanations used to support that position may be uneven, inconsistent, or limited. The writing may contain lapses in diction or syntax, but it usually conveys the writer's ideas.	
4 Inadequate	Essays earning a score of 4 inadequately develop a position on the topic/passage presented in the prompt. The evidence and explanations used may inappropriately, insufficiently, or unconvincingly support the writer's position. The argument may have lapses in coherence or be inadequately developed. The prose generally conveys the student's ideas but may be inconsistent in controlling the elements of effective writing.	
3	Essays earning a 3 meet the criteria for the score of 4 but demonstrate less success in developing a position on the topic/passage presented in the prompt. The essays may show less maturity in their control of writing.	
2 Little Success	Essays earning a score of 2 demonstrate little success in developing a position on the topic/passage present in the prompt. The student may misunderstand the prompt or substitute a simpler task by responding to the prompt tangentially with unrelated or inaccurate explanation. The prose often demonstrates consistent weaknesses in writing, such as grammatical problems, a lack of development or organization, or a lack of coherence and control.	
1	Essays earning a score of 1 meet the criteria for the score of 2 but are underdeveloped, especially simplistic in their explanation and argument, weak in their control of language, or especially lacking in coherence and development.	
0	Indicates an off-topic response, one that merely repeats the prompt, an entirely crossed-out response, a drawing, or a response in a language other than English.	