

Step Write Up®



THE ARGUMENT RUBRIC

High school-ready students should be able to write arguments on an issue or topic by employing sound reasoning and presenting sufficient evidence.

IDEAS

"Ideas" refers to the originality and clarity of ideas in the piece of writing.
Good writers generate and convey fresh ideas and avoid dull, obvious observations.

☐ TIME TO STEP IT UP

- ☐ Claim is unclear.
- ☐ Ideas rarely connect to the topic.
- ☐ Claim lacks logic.
- ☐ Perspective is dull and overused.

☐ YOU'RE ALMOST THERE

- ☐ Claim is established.
- ☐ Ideas usually stay on topic.
- ☐ Claim is one-sided.
- ☐ Perspective is obvious and common.

☐ YOU'VE MADE IT!

- ☐ Claim is precise and clearly established.
- ☐ Ideas consistently stay on topic.
- ☐ Claim is **fair and reasonable**.
- ☐ Perspective is relevant and unique.

ORGANIZATION

"Organization" refers to the structure or framework in which the ideas are arranged.
Good writers smoothly and logically arrange their ideas so that readers don't get lost or confused.

☐ TIME TO STEP IT UP

- ☐ Claim is not introduced.
- ☐ Relationships are directly stated or not established.
- ☐ Transitions are ineffective or absent.
- ☐ Ideas are jumbled.
- ☐ Conclusion is abrupt or nonexistent.

☐ YOU'RE ALMOST THERE

- ☐ Claim is introduced.
- ☐ Relationships are somewhat established but lack cohesion.
- ☐ Transitions link ideas.
- ☐ Ideas are divided and sequenced.
- ☐ Conclusion is present.

☐ YOU'VE MADE IT!

- ☐ Claim is skillfully introduced.
- ☐ Relationships are clearly established and cohesive among claim, counterclaim, and evidence.
- ☐ Effective transitions skillfully link ideas.
- ☐ Ideas are logically divided and sequenced (e.g., paragraphing, illustrating, graphing, bulleting, etc.).
- ☐ Satisfying conclusion is provided.

SUPPORT

“Support” refers to the level of detail you provide to color and enlarge your ideas. Good writers incorporate and arrange ample details and examples to support the focus of the essay.

☐ TIME TO STEP IT UP

- ☐ Reasoning is illogical or not present.
- ☐ Evidence is insubstantial or nonexistent.
- ☐ Evidence is not explained or related to the claim.
- ☐ Counterclaim is missing.

☐ YOU'RE ALMOST THERE

- ☐ Reasoning is vague or sometimes flawed.
- ☐ Evidence is provided.
- ☐ Evidence is explained to support the claim.
- ☐ Counterclaim is stated.

☐ YOU'VE MADE IT!

- ☐ Reasoning is logical and valid.
- ☐ Evidence is ample and relevant.
- ☐ Evidence is effectively explained to strengthen the claim.
- ☐ Counterclaim's weaknesses and strengths are thoroughly addressed.

STYLE

“Style” refers to the uniqueness and appropriateness of your writing voice throughout the essay. While good writers select words and construct sentences that reflect an appropriate voice for the writing occasion, they also use vivid, colorful language to convey personality and tone.

☐ TIME TO STEP IT UP

- ☐ Voice is too loose or sounds like “talk.”
- ☐ Tone is too subjective or distracting.
- ☐ Word choice is basic or repetitive.
- ☐ Lacks variety of sentence style or structure.

☐ YOU'RE ALMOST THERE

- ☐ Voice is not always suitable.
- ☐ Tone is inconsistent.
- ☐ Word choice is generic or simplistic.
- ☐ A limited variety of sentence styles is used.

☐ YOU'VE MADE IT!

- ☐ Voice is suitable to purpose, audience, content area, and assignment.
- ☐ Tone is consistently objective.
- ☐ Word choice is effective and precise.
- ☐ A variety of sentence styles is used (e.g., simple, complex, compound, and compound-complex).

MECHANICS

“Mechanics” refers to the “nuts and bolts” within the machinery of the essay. Good writers pay close attention to the proper use of punctuation, grammar, words, phrases, spelling, and sentence formation.

☐ TIME TO STEP IT UP

- ☐ Spelling errors cause confusion for the reader.
- ☐ Writing show minimal control of Standard English usage and grammar.
- ☐ Errors in punctuation and capitalization confuse the reader.

☐ YOU'RE ALMOST THERE

- ☐ Spelling errors sometimes interfere with the reader's understanding.
- ☐ Writing shows inconsistent control of Standard English usage and grammar.
- ☐ Errors in punctuation and capitalization sometimes interfere with the reader's understanding.

☐ YOU'VE MADE IT!

- ☐ Spelling errors do not interfere with the reader's understanding.
- ☐ Writing shows confident, consistent control of Standard English usage and grammar.
- ☐ Basic punctuation and capitalization rules are followed.