

Ready or Not Writing[®]



THE ARGUMENT RUBRIC

College-ready writers should be able to write arguments on an issue or topic by employing sound reasoning and presenting relevant and sufficient evidence.

*** To be rated college ready, an essay must meet college-ready competency levels in Ideas, Organization, and Mechanics.**

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.



☐ NOT COLLEGE READY

The paper...

- ☐ Makes a vague statement evident of little reflection or insight
- ☐ Introduces a vague topic or an undeveloped claim
- ☐ Ignores alternate or opposing claims with no awareness of audience's knowledge level, concerns, values, and possible biases

☐ ALMOST COLLEGE READY

The paper...

- ☐ Establishes a simple, obvious claim
- ☐ Makes multiple or underdeveloped claims
- ☐ Recognizes alternate or opposing claims and while occasionally recognizing some competing viewpoints with limited awareness of audience's knowledge level, concerns, values, and possible biases

☐ COLLEGE READY

The paper...

- ☐ Clearly establishes a knowledgeable claim
- ☐ Formulates a precise claim
- ☐ Critically evaluates alternate or opposing claims with keen awareness of audience's knowledge level, concerns, values, and possible biases

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.



☐ NOT COLLEGE READY

The paper...

- ☐ Neglects to introduce a clear, compelling argument
- ☐ Constructs a loose structure with organizational elements that interfere with or detract from the argument
- ☐ Neglects to use appropriate words and phrases to link major sections of the paper
- ☐ Exhibits an undeveloped, redundant, or irrelevant conclusion

☐ ALMOST COLLEGE READY

The paper...

- ☐ Provides an introduction that vaguely establishes the argument
- ☐ Constructs an arrangement of ideas but may lack order and cohesion
- ☐ Uses appropriate and effective words and phrases inconsistently to link major sections of the paper
- ☐ Presents an underdeveloped or abrupt concluding statement that lacks closure

☐ COLLEGE READY

The paper...

- ☐ Provides a compelling introduction that establishes the argument
- ☐ Constructs a logical sequence of relevant ideas to support the claims in an orderly, cohesive manner
- ☐ Employs appropriate and effective words and phrases to link major sections of the text
- ☐ Provides a well-developed, convincing concluding section that follows from and supports the argument

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.

NOT COLLEGE READY

The paper...

- ☐ Provides minimal or no reasons to support a claim
- ☐ Demonstrates little or no development of claims and counterclaims
- ☐ Provides irrelevant or no evidence to support the claim

ALMOST COLLEGE READY

The paper...

- ☐ Provides few and/or unclear reasons for supporting the claim
- ☐ Develops claims and counterclaims inconsistently and sporadically
- ☐ Provides insufficient and occasionally appropriate evidence to support claim

COLLEGE READY

The paper...

- ☐ Provides multiple and sound reasons for supporting the claim
- ☐ Develops claims and counterclaims fairly and thoroughly
- ☐ Provides ample, appropriate, and credible evidence to support the claim

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.

NOT COLLEGE READY

The paper...

- ☐ Uses sentence structures that are incomplete or rambling
- ☐ Demonstrates little no variation in sentence beginnings
- ☐ Uses basic, choppy, sentences patterns
- ☐ Uses unclear, inappropriate, and/or incorrect language
- ☐ Employs limited or conversational vocabulary that may not be appropriate to the argument

ALMOST COLLEGE READY

The paper...

- ☐ Demonstrates simple or unvaried sentence structures and lengths
- ☐ Simple sentences dominate the sentence patterns
- ☐ Adequately integrates some sophisticated, rhythmic sentence pattern
- ☐ Uses mostly basic or conversational language
- ☐ Occasionally employs formal or sophisticated vocabulary appropriate to the argument

COLLEGE READY

The paper...

- ☐ Demonstrates varied sentence structure and lengths
- ☐ Integrates a range of sentence beginnings
- ☐ Skillfully weaves sophisticated, rhythmic sentence patterns
- ☐ Uses clear, appropriate, precise language
- ☐ Employs formal, sophisticated vocabulary appropriate to the argument

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.



NOT COLLEGE READY

The paper...

- ☐ Demonstrates minimal or no control of Standard English usage and grammar
- ☐ Includes frequent spelling errors that distract and confuse the reader
- ☐ Includes frequent errors in punctuation or capitalization that distract and confuse the reader
- ☐ Includes frequent sentence-level errors (comma splices, run-ons, or fragments) that distract and confuse the reader

ALMOST COLLEGE READY

The paper...

- ☐ Demonstrates inconsistent control of Standard English usage and grammar
- ☐ Includes occasional spelling errors that distract the reader
- ☐ Includes occasional errors in punctuation or capitalization that distract the reader
- ☐ Includes occasional sentence-level errors (comma splices, run-ons, or fragments) that distract the reader

COLLEGE READY

The paper...

- ☐ Demonstrates consistent control of Standard English usage and grammar
- ☐ Includes few or no spelling errors
- ☐ Includes few or no punctuation or capitalization errors
- ☐ Includes few or no sentence-level errors