

Grading Rubric for Analysis of Argument

Criterion	Exemplary	Good	Adequate	Unsatisfactory
Main idea of source correctly identified and clearly stated?	Stated precisely	Stated clearly, may be somewhat imprecise	May be implied or stated unclearly, but analysis is consistent with a grasp of the argument.	Missing or very inaccurate
Author and title of the essay stated?	Yes	Given in title, but not in the analysis itself		No
Overall evaluation of the argument given? (thesis)	Clearly stated and comprehensive	Stated, perhaps somewhat imprecise	May be implied, or stated as a list (not an overall statement), or inconsistent with the support	No evident thesis, or takes a position on the issue itself
Evaluation explained and supported?	Thorough, clear, and valid observations of argument's evidence, logic, and rhetorical strategies; explained well.	Generally valid observations made about the argument's strengths and weaknesses; possibly, minor problems with explaining points or with understanding of the argument, or choice of strengths and weaknesses somewhat skewed.	Some valid observations made about the argument's strengths and weaknesses; possibly, some serious problems in explaining/supporting points, understanding of the argument, or unfairness in choice of points to discuss.	No, or just a little, support/ explanation given; discussion shows a weak grasp of the argument or of principles of good argument; or only summarizes the argument.
Organization	Clear and effective order, helpful transitions to show the connections between the points. Clear, effective introduction and conclusion.	Points are appropriately paragraphed and in a reasonable order, possibly not very effective. Transitions are used; introduction and conclusion are easily identifiable.	Clear effort to organize appropriately, possibly some problems with paragraph or overall structure. Transitions may be absent or basic. Introduction or conclusion may be missing.	No evident organizational pattern; seems jumbled or confusing. No clear introduction or conclusion.
Paraphrasing and quoting	Thoroughly paraphrased and accurately quoted.	Acceptable, but sometimes closer to the original wording than necessary or with minor errors in quotation.	Acceptable paraphrasing, some inaccuracy in quoting.	Unacceptable—unmarked quotation, insufficiently changed language, or very inaccurate quotation
Grammar, etc.	Virtually free of errors, consistently effective sentence structure and word choice	Generally correct and clear, perhaps not as effective as Exemplary in sentence structure or word choice.	Errors are present, enough to distract or blur meaning but not prevent understanding.	Errors are numerous or severe enough to interfere with understanding
Formatting?	Perfect	1-2 deviations	3-4 deviations	More than 4 deviations