

HSD3 Argument Essay Rubric MS

	Exceptional 5	Advanced 4	Proficient 3	Developing 2	Inadequate 1
<p>Ideas The essay introduces a clear, arguable claim (thesis) that remains the focus of the paper.</p>	The essay has an academically <u>mature and focused</u> thesis (claim). Writer’s purpose is obvious.	The essay poses and maintains a <u>clear, interesting and purposeful</u> thesis (claim).	The essay poses and maintains a thesis (claim).	The essay poses a claim but often lacks focus.	The essay fails to state a claim and/or lacks any sustained focus.
<p>Organization The essay skillfully orients reader to topic(s) and uses structure (paragraphing) with transitions to provide logical progression.</p>	The paper flows <u>smoothly with style</u> . Thoughtful transitions create cohesion. Inviting intro/ satisfying conclusion.	The paper flows smoothly with some effective transitions. Intro/conclusion are powerfully written.	The order makes sense and uses some transitions. There is a recognizable intro/conclusion.	The essay may feel disjointed or awkward. Transitions may be present but sometimes fail. Intro/conclusion may or may not make sense in the context.	The essay lacks order, is awkward to read, or does not tie together. Intro/conclusion/transition words may be non-existent.
<p>Development The essay provides sufficient data with credible support for the claim (thesis).</p>	The essay provides relevant, unique and compelling information to support all claims and <u>develops potential counter-arguments</u> .	The essay provides clear, interesting, relevant information, to support all claims and <u>address potential counter-arguments</u> .	The essay provides relevant information to support all claims, and it <u>acknowledges potential counter-arguments</u> .	The essay provides inadequate or irrelevant information in an attempt to support claims, <u>without reference to counter-arguments</u> .	The essay lacks relevant information and does not support a claim.
<p>Language The essay displays a strong command of language, with precise word choice and varied sentence structures.</p>	The essay uses sophisticated, engaging, accurate words. Writing has an easy flow; sentences vary in length and structure.	The essay has clear, fluent sentences enhanced by effective word choice.	The essay contains complete sentences that are constructed correctly but maybe not artfully. Words make sense but are often uninteresting	Sentences may be choppy, incomplete, rambling or awkward. They may continually begin the same way. Word usage is weak, repetitive, or incorrect.	The essay is difficult to follow due to distracting, incorrect usage of sentences and words.
<p>Conventions The essay demonstrates an obvious command of Standard American English including citations for sources.</p>	The essay displays <u>intentional</u> , stylistic grammar with correct punctuation, citations and spelling.	The essay displays consistent and correct grammar, punctuation, citations and spelling.	The essay displays <u>generally correct</u> grammar, punctuation, citations and spelling.	The essay contains <u>distracting mistakes</u> in grammar, punctuation, citations and spelling.	The punctuation, grammar and spelling mistakes make the text difficult to read. Citations are missing or incorrect.

Essay Holistic Score: _____

Score Conversion Chart

Holistic Score	Percentage	Sample Gradebook Score (x out of 25)
5.0	100	24-25
4.5	92	22-23
4.0	84	20-21
3.5	76	19
3.0	72	17-18
2.5	64	16
2.0	60	15
1.5	56	14
1.0	52	13
0.5	48	1-12

Evaluator Comments: