

# Researched Argument Scoring Rubric

## Total Points Possible: 100

### Conventions

- 4 The essay possesses no **subject-verb agreement, tense, or passive voice error**.
  - 2 The essay possesses one to four of the above errors.
  - 0 The essay has five or more of the above errors.
  
- 4 The essay follows MLA rules for **numbers**, making no errors using numbers.
  - 2 The essay possesses one to three number errors.
  - 0 The essay possesses four or more of the above errors.
  
- 4 The essay has no **spelling, capitalization, word usage, or punctuation errors**. It uses **quotation punctuation and documentation** correctly.
  - 2 The essay has one to five errors of the above.
  - 0 The essay has six or more errors of the above.
  
- 4 The essay presents **clear, complete sentences, correct coordination and subordination, parallel structure, and correct end punctuation**. It avoids **comma splices sentences and run-ons**.
  - 2 The essay presents one to four sentence errors.
  - 0 The essay has five or more sentence errors.
  
- 4 All sentences of the essay agree **pronouns with their antecedents**, use **pronouns** correctly, and make no **misplaced or dangling modifier** errors.
  - 2 The essay possesses one to four sentences with any of these errors.
  - 0 The essay possesses five or more sentences with any of these errors.

**Attach all components of the process, or you will earn a zero.**

**Prewriting:**

**Outline**

**Draft 1**

**Revising Steps 1-5**

**Draft 2**

**Draft 3 Subtotal:** \_\_\_\_\_/100

**Revising Steps 6-10 deduction (10% per skipped step)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Excess Page requirement deduction (4 pages max.)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Works Cited redo penalty (one without -10% penalty)** \_\_\_\_\_

**This essay scored:** \_\_\_\_\_100

### Elements of Style

- 7 This essay keeps the readers interested, using a variety of words including **strong nouns** and **vivid verbs** without using “to be” verbs instead of action verbs. The essay **avoids** trite expressions, **clichés**. The writer has **varied** sentence types and methods of beginning sentences, using mostly **periodic syntax**. The essay **excites its audience**.
  - 5 This essay mostly excites its audience.
    - 3 This essay somewhat excites its audience.
    - 0 This essay does not keep the reader interested.
  
- 7 While maintaining a **formal** style that uses Standard English and third person and avoids contractions, the writer has developed an engaging **persona** that creates a relationship with the audience and meshes his/her perspective with the audience’s. While **engaging** multiple sources, the **writer’s voice** dominates, yet allows the **sources’ voices** to “speak” clearly.
  - 5 While maintaining a mostly formal style, this writer has developed a persona that creates a relationship with the audience and considers perspectives. It sometimes engages the sources, and the writer’s voice mostly dominates while allowing the sources to “speak.”
    - 3 While the writer shows a persona, it neglects the relationship with the audience, and/or it may lapse from formal style. The essay may not engage the sources, and/or the writer’s voice may weaken, allowing the sources to overpower it. It may not distinguish voices.
      - 0 This essay lacks a clear persona, a dominant voice, and/or clear source voices.
  
- 7 This essay demonstrates a **coherent, conversational style**. It uses a variety of transition methods including transitional words and phrases, conversation transitions, strategic repetition, synonyms, and key pronouns.
  - 5 This essay mostly demonstrates a coherent, conversational style.
    - 3 This essay demonstrates a fairly coherent and conversational style.
      - 0 This essay demonstrates no coherence.
  
- 7 This paper uses a **concise** and **precise** style by using the fewest, strongest, most necessary, targeted, correct, and exact words.
  - 5 The paper mostly employs a precise and concise style.
    - 3 The paper somewhat employs a precise and concise style.
      - 0 The paper lapses into wordiness and imprecision frequently.

## Elements of Content

- 7 All parts of the essay contribute to one clear idea or impression. Each paragraph deals with only one item, and all sentences support it. While maintaining **unity**, the essay also strongly **impacts the audience**. It induces strong emotions in the readers, influences readers with substantial new information or a new way of viewing a situation, and it causes readers to seriously think about the topic.
- 5 This essay mostly has unity while making impact.
- 3 This essay may be strong in either unity or impact but not both.
- 0 The essay lacks unity and impact.
- 10 The writer has **illustrated** points by using **appropriate researched quotations** and **paraphrases**. The type of **evidence** sufficiently and appropriately supports the subject and purpose. The writer has effectively **evaluated**, chosen, and conversed with **at least six sources including college-level research**: one research study from a college or other esteemed institution or two publications from a college/university press.
- 8 The essay mostly employs appropriate quotations and paraphrasing. The type of evidence mostly supports the subject and purpose. The writer adequately evaluated, chose, and conversed with at least five sources including college-level research.
- 6 The essay employs appropriate quotations and paraphrasing at times. The type of evidence may not adequately or appropriately provide support. The writer adequately evaluated, chose, and conversed with at least four sources including college-level research.
- 4 The essay employs minimal researched evidence or minimal variety of evidence. The type of evidence does not adequately and/or appropriately support the subject and purpose, or the writer did not adequately evaluate, choose, and/or use sources.
- 0 The essay does not illustrate effectively.
- 10 The essay offers **specific arguments** that employ **sylogism** and show clear **inductive** and **deductive** reasoning regarding an important college-related topic. It concentrates on a position, never wandering off topic; answers why and/or how for every point; describes position fully; and offers thorough explanations. The writer effectively enters an **intellectual conversation**.
- 8 The essay offers arguments that employ syllogism with strong attempts at inductive and deductive reasoning. It concentrates on the position, never wandering off topic; answers why/how for most points; describes position; and offers explanations. The writer effectively uses sources and enters an intellectual conversation.
- 6 The essay offers content that may show reasoning flaws. It may wander off topic. It usually answers why and/or how; describes position somewhat; and offers some explanations. It enters a conversation.
- 4 The essay offers content that shows reasoning flaws. It wanders off topic. It sometimes answers why and/or how; describes position somewhat; and offers some explanations. It may not converse much.
- 0 The essay does not provide specific content.
- 5 The writer has constructed **logical sentences** and has avoided **fallacies**.
- 2 The essay possesses one or two logic problems.
- 0 The essay possesses three or more logic problems.

## Elements of Organization

- 10 The essay follows **MLA standards of format** including a correct **Works Cited** page.
- 8 The essay possesses one to four MLA standards of format errors.
- 6 The essay possesses five to eight MLA standards of format errors.
- 3 The essay possesses nine to twelve MLA standards of format errors.
- 0 The essay did not follow MLA standards of format.
- 10 The essay demonstrates a clear **purpose**, maintains an appropriate **structure**, and demonstrates strong understanding of its **audience**, using a lucid and precise **thesis**. The writer has arranged ideas according to a **sylogistic organizational pattern** to support the purpose. Readers can read without stumbling over concepts and sentence flow. The writer has **coherently organized** this essay.
- 8 The essay demonstrates a problem in one of the areas above, and/or it mostly coherently organized.
- 4 The essay demonstrates several organizational problems.
- 0 The essay lacks coherence.