

ARGUMENT—Standard 1: Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.

Scoring Elements	Stretching	4 Mastering Standards	3 Meeting Standards	2 Developing Standards	1 Initiating Standards
Controlling Idea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addresses all aspects of prompts thoughtfully with a consistently strong focus and convincing position Introduces precise, knowledgeable, and compelling claim(s) that demonstrates originality Articulates significance of claim(s) Distinguishes claim(s) from counterclaim(s) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addresses all aspects of prompt thoughtfully with a consistently strong focus and convincing position Introduces precise, knowledgeable, and compelling claim(s) Establishes significance of claim(s) Distinguishes claim(s) from counterclaim(s) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addresses prompt appropriately and maintains a clear focus Provides a convincing position Introduces precise claim(s) Establishes significance of claim(s) Distinguishes claim(s) from counterclaim(s) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addresses prompt appropriately and generally maintains a clear focus Provides a convincing position Introduces basic claim(s) Acknowledges significance of claims Distinguishes claim(s) from counterclaim(s) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addresses prompt and generally maintains focus Introduces basic claim(s) Attempts to distinguish the claim(s) from counterclaim(s)
Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develops all claim(s) and counterclaim(s) objectively and thoroughly Extensively supplies the most relevant and credible evidence for each claim Thoroughly evaluates strengths and limitations of claim(s) and counterclaim(s) Incorporates rhetoric to strongly support claim(s) [pathos, logos, ethos] Anticipates and targets the audience’s knowledge level, values, and biases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develops all claim(s) and counterclaim(s) objectively and thoroughly Supplies the most relevant and credible evidence for each claim Evaluates strengths and limitations of claim(s) and counterclaim(s) Consistently and appropriately anticipates the audience’s knowledge level, values, and biases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develops claim(s) and counterclaim(s) thoroughly Supplies relevant and credible evidence for each claim Identifies strengths and limitations of claim(s) and counterclaim(s) Appropriately anticipates the audience’s knowledge level and concerns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develops claim(s) and counterclaim(s) Supplies credible evidence for each claim Identifies most strengths and limitations of claim(s) and counterclaim(s) Anticipates the audience’s knowledge level and concerns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unevenly develops claim(s) and counterclaim(s) Supplies credible evidence for most claims Identifies some strengths and limitations of claim(s) and counterclaim(s) Attempts to anticipate the audience’s knowledge level and concerns
Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Logically sequences and connects claim(s), counterclaim(s), and evidence, layered with insightful and convincing reasoning Provides a sophisticated concluding statement or section that follows, supports, and deepens the argument 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Logically sequences and connects claim(s), counterclaim(s), evidence, and reasoning Provides a sophisticated concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the argument 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes clear relationships among claim(s), counterclaim(s), evidence, and reasoning Provides a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the argument 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes relationships among claim(s), counterclaim(s), evidence, and reasoning Provides a concluding statement or section that mostly follows from the argument 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes relationships among some claim(s), counterclaim(s), evidence, and reasoning Provides a concluding statement or section that doesn’t follow from the majority of the argument
Command of Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses sophisticated words, phrases and clauses as well as varied syntax to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> link the major sections of the text create cohesion clarify relationships between claim(s), counterclaim(s), evidence and reasoning Establishes and maintains a formal, objective tone that enhances the argument Purposefully manipulates the norms and conventions of the writing task to enhance the argument 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses sophisticated words, phrases, and clauses as well as varied syntax to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> link the major sections of the text create cohesion clarify relationships between claim(s), counterclaim(s), evidence and reasoning Establishes and maintains a formal, objective tone that enhances the argument Attends to the norms and conventions of the writing task 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses words, phrases, and clauses as well as varied syntax to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> link the major sections of the text create cohesion clarify relationships between claim(s), counterclaim(s), evidence and reasoning Establishes and maintains a formal, objective tone that enhances the argument Attends to the norms and conventions of the writing task 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intermittently uses words, phrases, and clauses as well as varied syntax to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> link the major sections of the text create cohesion clarify relationships between claim(s), counterclaim(s), evidence and reasoning Establishes and maintains a formal, objective tone Attends to the norms and conventions of the writing task 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses words, phrases, and clauses without variation in an attempt to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> link major sections create cohesion clarify relationships between claim(s) and reasons Establishes but does not maintain a formal tone Attempts to attend to the norms and conventions of the writing task
Reading and Research (as applies)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Selectively synthesizes and integrates compelling details from various sources to develop the argument Utilizes field research and/or primary sources; generates original data Properly paraphrases, quotes, and cites sources to avoid plagiarism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Selectively synthesizes and integrates compelling details from various sources to develop the argument Properly paraphrases, quotes, and cites sources to avoid plagiarism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Selectively synthesizes and integrates details from various sources to develop the argument Properly paraphrases, quotes, and cites sources to avoid plagiarism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Synthesizes important details from multiple sources Properly paraphrases, quotes, and cites sources to avoid plagiarism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Synthesizes important details from multiple sources Properly paraphrases, quotes, and cites sources to avoid plagiarism

INFORMATIVE/EXPLANATORY—Standard 2: Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.					
Scoring Elements	Stretching	4 Mastering Standards	3 Meeting Standards	2 Developing Standards	1 Initiating Standards
Controlling Idea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addresses all aspects of the prompt appropriately and insightfully Introduces a sophisticated topic organized so that each new element builds on the preceding idea to create a unified whole 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addresses all aspects of the prompt appropriately with a strongly developed focus Introduces a topic organized so that each new element builds on the preceding idea to create a unified 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addresses the most important aspects of the prompt appropriately Introduces a topic with complex ideas, concepts, and information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addresses some aspects of the prompt appropriately Introduces topic clearly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attempts to address aspects of the prompt Topic is unclear
Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriately and thoroughly develops the topic by selecting and insightfully analyzing the most significant and relevant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> facts extended definitions concrete details quotations other relevant information and examples Examples enhance the audience’s knowledge of the topic and clarify the topic accurately 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develops the topic with insightful analysis of the most significant and relevant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> facts extended definitions concrete details quotations other relevant information and examples Examples are appropriate to the audience’s knowledge of the topic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develops the topic with analysis of enough significant and relevant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> facts extended definitions concrete details quotations other relevant information and examples Most examples are appropriate to the audience’s knowledge of the topic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develops the topic with minimal analysis; may or may not use significant and relevant: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> facts extended definitions concrete details quotations other relevant information and examples Few examples are appropriate to the audience’s knowledge of the topic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attempts to develop the topic with analysis, but sparsely uses significant and relevant: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> facts extended definitions concrete details quotations other relevant information and examples Examples are not appropriate to the audience’s knowledge of the topic
Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizes complex ideas, concepts, and information so that each new element builds to create a unified whole and the structure contributes to an effective analysis of the topic Uses appropriate, varied, and purposeful transitions and syntax to link major sections of the text to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among complex ideas and concepts Provides a concluding statement or section that follows from and thoroughly supports and expands upon the information presented Includes significant and consistent formatting, graphics, and multimedia that aid reader’s comprehension 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizes complex ideas, concepts, and information so that each new element builds to create a unified whole Uses appropriate and varied transitions and varied syntax to link major sections of the text to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among complex ideas and concepts Provides a concluding statement or section that follows from, supports, and expands upon the information presented, such as articulating implications or significance of the topic Includes consistent formatting, graphics, and multimedia that aid the reader’s comprehension 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizes ideas, concepts, and information so that elements build upon each other but may not be unified or contribute to the whole Uses transitions and syntax to link major sections of the text to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts Provides a concluding statement or section that follows from, supports, and expands upon the information presented, such as articulating implications or significance of the topic Includes formatting, graphics, and multimedia to aid comprehension 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Somewhat organizes ideas, concepts, and information, but elements do not build upon each other or contribute to the whole Uses some transitions and syntax to link sections of the text, creating some cohesion, and attempts to clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts Provides a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the information presented Attempts to include formatting, graphics, and multimedia but they do not clearly aid comprehension 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attempts to organize ideas, concepts, and information, but elements do not connect to each other Attempts to use transitions and syntax, but they do not create cohesion or clarify relationships Provides a concluding statement or section that does not follow from or support the information presented Lacks the relevant formatting, graphics, and multimedia to aid comprehension (e.g. off-topic, illogical)
Command of Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effectively and purposefully uses precise words, domain specific vocabulary, and techniques such as metaphor, simile, and analogy to manage the complexity of the topic Establishes and maintains a formal style and objective tone that contributes to the analysis of the topic Attends consistently and purposefully to the norms and conventions of the writing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consistently uses precise words, domain-specific vocabulary, and techniques such as metaphor, simile, and analogy to manage the complexity of the topic Establishes and maintains a formal style and objective tone Attends consistently to the norms and conventions of the writing task 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses precise words, domain-specific vocabulary, and techniques such as metaphor, simile, and analogy to manage the complexity of the topic Establishes and maintains a formal style and objective tone Attends to the norms and conventions of the writing task 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses some precise words, domain-specific vocabulary, and/or techniques such as metaphor, simile, and analogy to manage the complexity of the text Establishes a formal style and objective tone, but does not maintain them throughout Attends to most of the norms and conventions of the writing task 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mismanages the complexity of the topic using imprecise words, few domain-specific vocabulary words, and/or minimal techniques such as metaphor, simile, and analogy Ineffectively establishes a formal style and/or objective tone Attends to few of the norms and conventions of the writing task
Reading and Research (as applies)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accurately and effectively synthesizes important and best-suited details from multiple sources to develop and deepen the topic Quotes or paraphrases data while avoiding plagiarism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accurately and consistently synthesizes important details from multiple sources to develop the topic Quotes or paraphrases data while avoiding plagiarism Follows standard citation format 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Synthesizes important details from multiple sources to develop the topic Quotes or paraphrases data while avoiding plagiarism Follows standard citation format 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Synthesizes details from multiple sources to develop the topic Quotes or paraphrases data while avoiding plagiarism Follows standard citation format 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unsuccessfully synthesizes details from multiple sources Quotes or paraphrases data while avoiding plagiarism Generally follows standard citation format

NARRATIVE—Standard 3: Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequence.

Scoring Elements	Stretching	4 Mastering Standards	3 Meeting Standards	2 Developing Standards	1 Initiating Standards
Controlling Idea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addresses all aspects of the prompt appropriately and maintains a strongly developed and insightful focus Engages and orients the reader by exploring a compelling or original problem, situation, or observation and justifies its significance in a greater context Provides a conclusion that follows from and enhances the reflection on what is experienced, observed, or resolved; ties the narrative to a greater context 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addresses all aspects of the prompt appropriately and maintains a strongly developed focus Engages and orients the reader by exploring a problem, situation, or observation and its significance Provides a conclusion that follows from and enhances the reflection on what is experienced, observed, or resolved over the course of the narrative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addresses all aspects of the prompt appropriately and maintains a strongly developed focus Engages and orients the reader by setting out a problem, situation, or observation and its significance Provides a conclusion that follows from and clearly reflects on what is experienced, observed, or resolved over the course of the narrative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addresses aspects of the prompt appropriately and maintains a steady focus Orients the reader by setting out a problem, situation, or observation Provides a conclusion that follows from what is experienced, observed, or resolved over the course of the narrative with adequate reflection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addresses prompt appropriately, but focus is underdeveloped Attempts to set out a problem, situation, or observation without orienting the reader Provides a conclusion but has minimal reflection on what is experienced, observed, or resolved over the course of the narrative
Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses sophisticated and well-developed narrative techniques such as dialogue, pacing, description, reflection, multiple plot lines, and a clear point of view to engage the reader through thoughtfully developed experiences, events, and/or characters Creates a smooth and purposeful progression of experiences or events that enhances the development of the narrative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses sophisticated and well-developed narrative techniques such as dialogue, pacing, description, sensory language, reflection, multiple plot lines, and a clear point of view to engage the reader through developed experiences, events, and/or characters Creates a smooth and purposeful progression of experiences or events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses narrative techniques such as dialogue, pacing, description, sensory language, reflection, multiple plot lines, and a clear point of view to develop experiences, events, and/or characters Creates a smooth progression of experiences or events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses a clear point of view to develop experiences, events, and/or characters but uses minimal or underdeveloped narrative techniques such as dialogue, pacing, description, sensory language, reflection, and multiple plot lines Creates a progression of experiences or events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lacks developed and/or effective narrative techniques Creates a disjointed progression of experiences or events
Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses purposeful, powerful techniques to sequence and transition events so that they organically and logically build on one another to create a coherent whole and build toward an intended tone and outcome (e.g., a sense of mystery, suspense, growth, or resolution) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses a variety of techniques to sequence and transition experiences and events so that they naturally and logically build on one another to create a coherent whole and build toward a particular tone and outcome (e.g., a sense of mystery, suspense, growth, or resolution) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses a variety of techniques to sequence and transition experiences and events so that they build on one another to create a coherent whole and build toward a particular tone and outcome (e.g., a sense of mystery, suspense, growth, or resolution) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses some techniques to sequence experiences and events, creating a partially cohesive narrative that builds toward a particular tone and outcome 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses some techniques to sequence experiences and events but they do not build toward the overall cohesion, tone, or outcome
Command of Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses the most precise words and phrases, telling details, and sensory language to effectively and deliberately convey a vivid picture and the emotional climate of the experiences, events, setting, and characters Uses the norms and conventions of writing to enhance the artistry of the narrative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses the most colorful and precise words and phrases, telling details, and sensory language to effectively convey a vivid picture of the experiences, events, setting, and/or characters Purposefully uses the norms and conventions of writing to enhance the narrative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses precise words and phrases, telling details, and sensory language to convey a vivid picture of the experiences, events, setting, and/or characters Attends to the norms and conventions of writing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses precise words and phrases, details, and sensory language but lacks originality to convey the experiences, events, setting, and/or characters Attends to the norms and conventions of writing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experiences, events, setting, and/or characters are conveyed, but narrative lacks precision in word choice and relies on cliché and repetition Follows most of the norms and conventions of writing
Reading and Research (as applies)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accurately and effectively synthesizes important and best-suited details from multiple sources to authenticate and deepen the narrative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accurately and effectively synthesizes the most important and best-suited details from multiple sources to authenticate the narrative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accurately and effectively synthesizes the most important details from multiple sources to authenticate the narrative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accurately synthesizes important details from multiple sources to authenticate the narrative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Synthesizes details from multiple sources haphazardly in an attempt to authenticate the narrative