

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 appropriately with a consistently strong focus and convincing position Introduces thoughtful claim(s) Clearly distinguishes the claim from alternate or opposing claims 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addresses prompt appropriately and consistently maintains a clear focus Introduces clear claim(s) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addresses prompt appropriately and generally maintains a clear focus Introduces clear claim(s) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addresses prompt appropriately but focus is unclear Introduces unclear claim(s) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attempts to address prompt but is off-task Claim(s) are off-topic or not stated
Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strongly supports the claim with logical reasoning and relevant evidence Demonstrates a clear understanding of the topic or text 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports the claim with clear, logical reasoning and relevant evidence Demonstrate a clear understanding of the topic or text 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports the claim with basic logical reasoning and relevant evidence Demonstrates a basic understanding of the topic or text 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports the claim with reasoning and evidence that may occasionally be irrelevant Attempts to demonstrate an understanding of the topic or text, but lacks clarity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reasoning and evidence are mostly irrelevant to the claim Lacks understanding of topic or text
Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Logically organizes supporting claims, evidence, and reasoning to enhance the argument Provides a successful concluding statement or section that follows and supports the argument(s) presented 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clearly and logically organizes reasons and evidence Provides a concluding statement or section that follows from the argument presented 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Logically organizes reasons and evidence Provides a concluding statement or section that follows from the argument presented 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attempts to organize reasons and evidence Provides a concluding statement or section 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organization is illogical and/or unclear Provides an illogical or partial concluding statement or section
Command of Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses precise words, phrases, and clauses to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> create cohesion clarify relationships between claim(s), evidence, and reasoning (7) clarify relationship between claim(s), counterclaims, evidence, reasoning (8) Establishes and maintains a formal tone that enhances the argument(s) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses words, phrases, and clauses to create and clarify relationships between claim(s), reasons and evidence Establishes and maintains a formal tone that enhances the argument 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses words, phrases, and clauses to create and begin clarifying relationships between claim(s), reasons and evidence Establishes and maintains a formal tone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses words and phrases to create relationships between claim(s), reasons, and evidence Attempts to establish and maintain a formal tone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Words and phrases do not establish clear relationships between claim(s), reasons, and evidence Does not establish and maintain a formal tone
Reading and Research (as applies)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses accurate and credible sources that enhance the argument Quotes or paraphrases data while avoiding plagiarism Follows standard citation format 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses accurate and credible sources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses credible sources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses some sources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lacks sources

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 prompt appropriately with a consistently strong focus Introduces the topic clearly Effectively previews what follows the stated topic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addresses all aspects of prompt appropriately and maintains a clear focus Introduces a clear and thoughtful topic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addresses aspects of prompt appropriately and generally maintains a clear focus Introduces a clear topic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addresses prompt appropriately but focus is frequently unclear Introduces a topic that lacks clarity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attempts to address prompt but lacks focus Topic is off-task
Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develops the topic with multiple, relevant: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> well-chosen facts definitions concrete details quotations other well-chosen information and examples 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develops the topic with relevant: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> facts definitions concrete details quotations other information or examples that enhance the reader's understanding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develops the topic with some relevant: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> facts definitions concrete details quotations other information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develops the topic with some: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> facts definitions concrete details quotations other information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lacks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> facts definitions concrete details quotations other information
Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizes ideas, concepts and information into broader categories Uses appropriate and varied transitions to create cohesion and to clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts Provides a complete and successful concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the information or explanation presented Includes useful formatting (headings), graphics, and multimedia to aid the reader's comprehension 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizes ideas, concepts and information Uses thoughtful, appropriate, and varied transitions to clarify relationships among ideas and concepts Provides a concluding statement or section that follows from the information presented Includes formatting, graphics, and multimedia to aid comprehension 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizes ideas, concepts and information Uses appropriate and varied transitions to attempt to clarify relationships among ideas and concepts Provides a concluding statement or section that partially follows from the information presented Includes formatting, graphics, and multimedia to aid comprehension 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sporadically organizes ideas, concepts and information Uses some clarifying transitions Provides a concluding statement or section but it does not follow from the information presented Attempts to include formatting, graphics, and multimedia but may not clearly aid comprehension 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation of ideas, concepts, and information lack organization Transitions lack clarity Lacks a concluding statement or section Lacks the relevant formatting, graphics, and multimedia necessary to aid comprehension (e.g. off-topic, illogical)
Command of Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about the topic Establishes and maintains a formal style that enhances the topic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about the topic Establishes and maintains a formal style 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses ordinary language and some domain-specific vocabulary words to inform about the topic Establishes and mostly maintains a formal style 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses generic language and vocabulary to inform about the topic Attempts to establish a formal style 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses limited language and vocabulary to inform about the topic Does not establish a formal style

Reading and Research (as applies)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Accurately and effectively 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">• Gathers relevant details from multiple sources to develop the topic• Quotes or paraphrases data while avoiding plagiarism• Provides bibliographic information	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gathers relevant details from multiple sources to develop the topic• Quotes or paraphrases data while avoiding plagiarism• Provides most of the bibliographic information	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gathers some relevant details from multiple sources to develop the topic• Some of the quotes or paraphrasing of data are inadvertently plagiarized• Provides some bibliographic information	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gathers few relevant details, possibly from a single source, to develop the topic• Many of the quotes or paraphrasing of data are plagiarized• Does not provide bibliographic information
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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 consistently developed focus Engages and orients the reader by establishing a context and point of view and developing a compelling narrator and/or characters Provides a conclusion that follows from, reflects on, and enhances the narrated experiences or events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addresses all aspects of the prompt appropriately and maintains a clear focus Engages and orients the reader by establishing a context and developing a narrator and/or characters Provides a conclusion that follows from the narrated experiences or events that includes some reflection on the events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addresses aspects of the prompt appropriately and maintains focus Engages and orients the reader by establishing a context and introducing a narrator and/or characters Provides a conclusion that follows from the narrated experiences or events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addresses aspects of the prompt appropriately but with a weak or uneven focus Establishes a context and introduces a narrator and/or characters Provides a conclusion that does not follow from the narrated experiences or events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The attempt to address the prompt lacks focus or is off-task Does not establish a clear context, narrator and/or characters Lacks a conclusion
Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses narrative techniques such as dialogue, pacing, description, and reflection to maturely develop experiences, events, and/or characters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses narrative techniques such as dialogue, pacing, and description to strongly develop experiences, events, and/or characters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses narrative techniques such as dialogue, pacing, and description to develop experiences, events and/or characters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses some narrative techniques that are insufficient to convey the experiences, events and/or characters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses few to no narrative techniques which leaves the narrative underdeveloped
Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizes an event sequence that unfolds naturally and logically and engages the reader throughout Uses a variety of well-chosen transition words, phrases, and clauses to convey sequence, signal shifts from one time frame or setting to another and show the relationships among experiences and events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizes an event sequence that unfolds naturally and logically to engage the reader Uses a variety of well-chosen transition words, phrases, and clauses to convey sequence and signal shifts from one time frame or setting to another 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizes an event sequence that unfolds naturally and logically Uses a variety of transitions, words, phrases, and clauses to convey sequence and signal shifts from one time frame or setting to another 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizes an event sequence that unfolds logically but has gaps that impact the overall cohesion Uses some transitions and words to convey sequence and signal shifts from one time frame or setting to another 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Events unfold in an illogical sequence Rarely uses transitions or words to convey sequence and signal shifts in time or setting
Command of Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, and sensory language to thoroughly capture the action and compellingly convey experiences and events Consistently attends to the norms and conventions of writing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, and sensory language to capture the action and convey experiences and events Attends to the norms and conventions of writing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, and sensory language to convey experiences and events Attends to the norms and conventions of writing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses some precision in word choice and some descriptive details and sensory language to convey experiences and events Struggles with some of the norms and conventions of writing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lacks precision in word choice and uses simplistic details Struggles with commonly used norms and conventions of writing
Reading and Research (as applies)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accurately and effectively synthesizes relevant details from multiple sources to authenticate the narrative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses relevant details from multiple sources to authenticate the narrative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses relevant details from multiple sources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses details from multiple sources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses minimal details from multiple sources or only one source