

ARGUMENTATIVE WRITING RUBRICCalifornia Common Core Standards Based - **EIGHTH GRADE**



Level	ARGUMENT WRITING/PROCESS	LANGUAGE CONVENTIONS	WITH GUIDANCE and SUPPORT FROM ADULTS
4 Exceeds	 □ Meets all expectations in level 3 □ Introduces precise claim(s) and distinguishes the claim for alternate/opposing claims □ Maintains a formal style and objective tone in argument □ Document is very well presented and documented with excellent organization 	Mostly correct use of language conventions, and some above grade level skills used, for example: Meets all expectations in level 3 Uses parallel structure Uses a semicolon to link related dependent clauses Uses a colon to introduce a list or quotation	Guidance & Support Level of guidance and support from adults
3 Meets	ARGUMENTATIVE WRITING (W1) Introduces claim(s) and acknowledges and distinguishes the claim from alternate or opposing claims (W1a) Organizes reasons and evidence logically (W1a) Supports claims with logical reasoning and relevant evidence demonstrating understanding of topic/text (W1b) Uses words, phrases, and clauses to create cohesion and clarify relationships among claims, reasons and evidence (W1c) Establishes and maintains a formal style (W1d) Provides a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the argument presented (W1e) WRITING PROCESS (W4-W8) Writes clearly and coherently and organization and style are appropriate to task, purpose and audience (W4) WGASFA* Develops and strengthens writing as needed, by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on how well purpose and audience have been addressed (W5) Uses technology to produce writing and link to and cite sources (W6) Assesses credibility of each source and quotes/paraphrases the data/conclusions of each source (W8) Avoids plagiarism and follows a standard format for citation (W8)	Adequate use of correct sentence formation, punctuation, capitalization, grammar usage and spelling for grade level, for example: Uses verbs in indicative, imperative, interrogative, conditional, and subjunctive mood (L1c) Recognizes and corrects inappropriate shifts in verb voice and mood (L1d) Uses punctuation (comma, ellipsis, dash) to indicate a pause or break (L2a) Uses an ellipsis to indicate an omission (L2b) Spells correctly (L2c) Uses verbs in active/passive voice and in conditional/subjunctive mood to achieve particular effects (3a)	before writing: Check off what was done before the student wrote the piece being scored. Discussion Read aloud or shared reading Drawing Vocabulary word bank Shared or interactive writing Graphic organizer Language frames
2 Almost Meets	 □ Claim is well stated but does not address opposing/alternate claims □ Has some reasons and evidence but may not be logical or relevant □ Does not establish or maintain a formal style □ Concluding statement may be unclear or not well supported □ Writing may not fully address audience, task, or purpose 	Limited use of correct sentence formation, punctuation, capitalization, grammar usage and spelling for grade level, for example: Contains some run-on sentences or fragments Uses mostly simple or compound sentences Does not use active/passive voice but otherwise consistent in expression Contains some punctuation errors Contains some capitalization or spelling errors	
1 Does Not Meet	□ Limited information on topic □ Does not state an argument or claim □ Includes little to no facts or focus □ Information is disorganized or missing	Infrequent use of correct sentence formation, punctuation, capitalization, grammar usage and spelling for grade level, for example: □ Contains many run-on sentences □ Contains many punctuation errors □ Contains many capitalization or spelling errors	

WGASFA: "with guidance and support from adults"

This rubric was adapted from rubrics at sbusd.org and information from Smarter Balanced Assessments (www.smarterbalanced.org) using the California Common Core Standards at www.cde.ca.gov.

