

Scoring Rubric for Question 2: Argument

6 Points

Reporting Category	Scoring Criteria				
Row A Thesis (0-1 Points)	0 points For any of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no defensible thesis. The intended thesis only restates the prompt. The intended thesis provides a summary of the issue with no apparent or coherent claim. There is a thesis, but it does not respond to the prompt. 		1 point Responds to the prompt with a defensible thesis that presents a defensible position. Engages the reader.		
Row B Evidence AND Commentary (0-4 points)	0 points Simply restates the thesis and/or provides examples that are generally irrelevant and/or incoherent. Incoherent, illogical, weak transitions Deviates from the thesis Offers opinion without evidence, or evidence that is irrelevant.	1 point Provides general evidence without analysis. EVIDENCE: Provides evidence that is mostly general. COMMENTARY: Summarizes the evidence but does not explain how that evidence supports the thesis or argument. Summarizes evidence but does not explain how the evidence supports the student's argument. Logic between ideas is unclear, weak transitions	2 points Provides some relevant evidence. EVIDENCE: Provides some relevant evidence; however, it repeats, oversimplifies, or misinterprets the quoted information or evidence. COMMENTARY: Explains how some of the evidence relates to the student's argument, but line of reasoning is not established , or the line of reasoning is faulty Contains simplistic, inaccurate, or repetitive explanations that don't strengthen the argument. May make one point well; does not make multiple supporting claims and/or does not adequately support more than one claim or does not make connections between claims.	3 points Provides textual references (integrated quotes with context and analysis) that are relevant to the thesis. EVIDENCE: Provides specific evidence to support all claims in a line of reasoning.. COMMENTARY: Explains how some of the evidence supports a line of reasoning. Uniformly offers evidence.. Establishes multiple supporting claims that contribute clearly to the argument. Connections between claims with logical transitions.	4 points Makes textual references (integrated quotes) that are relevant to the thesis and provides insightful analysis. EVIDENCE: Provides specific evidence to support all claims.. COMMENTARY: Consistently explains how the evidence supports a line of reasoning. Organizes and supports an argument as a line of reasoning composed of multiple supporting, each with adequate evidence that is clearly explained/analyzed. Focus on the importance of specific details to build an argument. Fluid connections between claims/mini-purposes.
Row C Sophistication (0-1 Points)	0 points Does not meet the criteria for 1 point.		1 point Employs a style that is consistently vivid, persuasive and engaging. Sophisticated style, syntax, and diction		

