

Grading Guide for an argumentative Essay

A: Excellent Papers

Structure: The paper has a clear layout: a short introduction stating explicitly what the author wants to argue for, a body consisting of coherent and well-supported arguments, and a precise conclusion.

Content: Usually, the topic is about defending or arguing against a view or an explanation of some concepts. The author needs to show attention to the details of the positions or concepts. It is not necessary to refer to other authors or sources to deal competently with the issues involved. But if reference is used, it must be clearly referenced to the sources according to format prescribed by *Chicago*, APA or MLA.

Presentation: The paper has minimal typos. The grammar is correct, and the style is clear. Prolonged sentences and technical vocabulary are not necessary, and often detrimental.

A+ papers are usually given to writings that fulfill the above expectations and give the impression of originality of thoughts, with research on scholarly materials.

B: Good Papers

Structure: Overall clear layout of arguments as the A papers but lacking in sharpness of focus.

Content: Some important details or explanations are missing.

Presentation: Some grammatical mistakes or imprecision of language are recurrent.

B+ papers are quite like the A- ones except that the former have glaring errors in explication.

B papers are usually the 'norm' of any class: they have covered all the stated requirements in a mundane manner (a paper generated by AI usually looks like this).

C: Acceptable Papers

Structure: No clear argument is seen throughout but at least some attempt to argue for, or explain, something is noticeable.

Content: Quite amateurish in addressing the salient issues. In other words, the arguments are read like those given by someone who merely wants to say something about an issue that she has no adequate understanding. One usually gets this kind of stuff from the people who attend the talk shows.

Presentation: Quite difficult to follow grammatically speaking and some obvious recurrent typos.

These papers are acceptable but pedestrian: they are not “academic” in outlook or intention. Even academic people will write such papers if they are not serious about the issues and merely want to say something to impress others.

F: Unacceptable Papers: Plagiarized papers or papers heavily reliant on AI assistance. Note that there is no unintentional plagiarism: plagiarism is most likely the only reason why a student fails in an essay.