

Debate Essay Grading Rubric

<p>Thesis/Claim</p> <p>10 points</p>	<p>Reader cannot determine thesis and purpose OR thesis has no arguable claim.</p>	<p>Thesis and purpose are somewhat vague.</p>	<p>Contains an arguable claim that is somewhat original. Thesis and purpose are fairly clear.</p>	<p>Contains an arguable claim that develops fresh insight and challenges the reader's thinking.</p>
<p>Support/Reasoning</p> <p>10 points</p>	<p>The writer focuses on own thoughts and beliefs about the topic; neglects the rhetorical elements. Offers simplistic, undeveloped, or cryptic support for the ideas.</p>	<p>The writer includes 1 argument in the development of ideas. Details are too general, not interpreted, irrelevant to thesis.</p>	<p>The writer includes 2 arguments in the development of ideas. Assumptions are not always recognized or made explicit.</p>	<p>The writer includes all 3 arguments in the development of ideas. Details are relevant, original, and convincingly interpreted.</p>
<p>Structure & Organization</p> <p>10 points</p>	<p>Work lacks structure; lacks a clear thesis or conclusion, body seems disorganized</p>	<p>Body lacks a clear direction; supporting evidence loosely tied to thesis; transitions missing; conclusion has no sense of closure.</p>	<p>Body mostly flows from the thesis; transitions are awkward at times; appropriate conclusion.</p>	<p>Body flows from thesis; transitions guide the reader smoothly through the text; conclusion effectively wraps up the essay</p>
<p>Sources/Documentation</p> <p>10 points</p>	<p>Neglects important sources. Overuse of quotations or paraphrase to substitute writer's own ideas.</p>	<p>Uses relevant sources but lacks in variety of sources and/or the skillful combination of sources. Quotations and paraphrases may be too long and/or inconsistently referenced.</p>	<p>Uses sources to support, extend, and inform, but not substitute writer's own development of ideas. Doesn't overuse quotes but may not always conform to MLA/ APA format.</p>	<p>Uses sources to support, extend, and inform, but not substitute writer's own development of ideas. Source material is announced with intext citations.</p>
<p>Grammar/Mechanics</p> <p>10 points</p>	<p>Errors so numerous they distract the reader and skew the writer's meaning</p>	<p>Repeated weaknesses in mechanics and usage. Meaning is still clear</p>	<p>Occasional minor errors do not distract the reader or interfere with meaning.</p>	<p>Essentially free from mechanical, grammatical, punctuation, and spelling errors.</p>