Essay Rubric

Standard: W. 9-10.1 Write **arguments to support claims** in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.

Standard: a. Introduce a precise **claim**(s), distinguish the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claim(s), and create an organization that establishes clear relationships among claim(s), counterclaims, reasons and evidence.

Standard: b. Develop claim(s) and counterclaim(s) fairly, **supplying evidence** for each while pointing out the strengths and limitations of both in a manner that anticipates the audience's knowledge level and concerns.

Standard: c. Use words, phrases and clauses to link the major sections of the text, **create cohesion**, and clarify the relationships between claim(s) and reasons, between reasons and evidence, and between claim(s) and counterclaim(s).

Standard: d. Establish and maintain a **formal style** and objective tone while attending to the norms and conventions of the discipline in which they are writing.

Standard: e. Provide a **concluding statement** or section that follows form and supports the argument presented.

	Above - 4	Meeting - 3	Approaching - 2	Beginning - 1
Claim	Claim includes four components and is written logically and with artistry	Claim includes four components and is logical	Claim includes three components and is logical	Claims includes two or less components and/ or is not logical
Counterclaim	Counterclaim includes five components and is written logically and with artistry	Counterclaim includes five components and is logical	Counterclaim includes four components and is logical	Counterclaim includes two or less components and/or is not logical
Evidence	More than six pieces of relevant evidence are used to support claim/ counterclaim	Six pieces of relevant evidence are used to support claim/counterclaim	Four to five pieces of relevant evidence are used to support claim/counterclaim	Three or fewer pieces of relevant evidence are used to support claim/ counterclaim
Analysis	Analysis clearly and thoroughly explains how the evidence supports claim/ counterclaim	Analysis clearly explains how evidence supports claim/counterclaim	Analysis gives some explanation of how evidence supports claim/counterclaim	Analysis gives brief explanation of how evidence supports claim/ counterclaim

Rebuttal	Refutes counterclaim with additional evidence in way that is relevant and logical	Refutes counterclaim with additional evidence that is relevant	Refutes counterclaim with additional evidence that is somewhat relevant	Starts to refute counterclaim with opinions or some evidence
Cohesion	Essay is well written, fluid and logical	Essay is fluid and logical	Essay is mostly organized	Essay is somewhat organized, but components are missing
Conclusion	Revisits and rephrases claim with added detail. Includes a thought provoking final statement	Revisits and rephrases claim. Includes a thoughtful final statement	Restates claim. Includes a final statement	Restates claim. Final statement is not developed
Conventions	Author uses academic and engaging language. There are no errors	Author uses appropriate language. There are few minor errors	Author's language is mostly appropriate. There are some errors	Author's language is inconsistent. Errors make message unclear
MLA	MLA Formatting and Works Cited are correct	MLA formatting and Works Cited page are correct		MLA formatting and/or Works Cited are incorrect