

8th Grade Argument Writing Rubric

W8.1 Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.

Scoring Criteria	1 - Beginning	2 - Approaching	3 - Competent*	4 - Advanced
Purpose and Focus W8.1.a-e; W8.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Launches directly into topic with no introduction. <input type="checkbox"/> Shows limited awareness of purpose. <input type="checkbox"/> Does not establish focus. <input type="checkbox"/> Does not acknowledge alternate or opposing claim. <input type="checkbox"/> Shows limited awareness of audience's needs by providing little or no context. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Introduces the topic vaguely or bluntly. <input type="checkbox"/> Shows some awareness of purpose by implying a claim. <input type="checkbox"/> Attempts to establish focus, but the non-specificity of the claim may cause lapses. <input type="checkbox"/> Attempts to acknowledge alternate or opposing claim. <input type="checkbox"/> Indicates some awareness of audience's needs by providing some context. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Orients the reader with an introduction to the topic. <input type="checkbox"/> Establishes a purpose by stating a claim. <input type="checkbox"/> Maintains focus on the claim throughout. <input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledges and distinguishes the claim from alternate or opposing claim. <input type="checkbox"/> Indicates an awareness of audience's needs by providing relevant contextual details. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Orients and engages the reader with an angled and compelling introduction. <input type="checkbox"/> Establishes a purpose by making a convincing claim. <input type="checkbox"/> Maintains clear focus on the claim throughout. <input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledges and distinguishes the claim from alternate or opposing claim, showing awareness of multiple perspectives. <input type="checkbox"/> Indicates strong awareness of audience's needs by providing context and anticipating reader's response to the claim.
Idea Development W8.1.a, b, c, e; W8.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Includes some facts and/or details, but does not give reasons for their inclusion, or facts and/or details do not support a particular claim. <input type="checkbox"/> Uses few or no sources. <input type="checkbox"/> Shows limited understanding of the topic or text. <input type="checkbox"/> Ends seemingly in the middle of a section with no sense of closure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Includes facts and details and connects them to the reasons they support, but makes some inaccurate connections or fails to account for some information. <input type="checkbox"/> Uses limited sources that may be insufficient to support the intended claim and/or that lack credibility. <input type="checkbox"/> Shows some understanding of topic. <input type="checkbox"/> Provides conclusion that may feel abrupt or insufficient. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Supports claim with logical reasoning and relevant evidence. <input type="checkbox"/> Uses accurate, credible sources that are sufficient to support the claim. <input type="checkbox"/> Shows a clear understanding of the topic or text. <input type="checkbox"/> Provides a concluding statement or section that follows from the argument presented. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Supports claim with insightful, logical reasoning and compelling evidence. <input type="checkbox"/> Uses accurate and credible sources that fully support the claim. <input type="checkbox"/> Shows insightful understanding of topic. <input type="checkbox"/> Provides a compelling concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the argument presented.
Structure W8.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Includes Ideas, reasons, facts and/or details that appear to be in no particular order. <input type="checkbox"/> Use of transitional words, phrases and clauses to link ideas and reasons is limited or ineffective. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Groups ideas, reasons, facts, and details into sections or paragraphs that feel mostly cohesive, but may also include some information that does not seem to fit. These sections or paragraphs appear to be in no particular order. <input type="checkbox"/> Uses some transitional words, phrases and clauses, but may be repetitive or awkward. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Groups related ideas, reasons, facts, and details into sections or paragraphs that are logically ordered. <input type="checkbox"/> Uses a variety of transitional words, phrases and clauses to clarify the relationships among claim, counterclaim, reasons and evidence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Groups ideas, reasons, facts, and details into sections or paragraphs that are strategically ordered to strengthen the impact of the claim (e.g., presenting and refuting opposing side or ordering reasons from least to most compelling). <input type="checkbox"/> Uses transitional words, phrases and clauses, including some sophisticated ones, to clarify the relationships among claim, counterclaim, reasons and evidence.
Research W8.7-9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Attempts to quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others (may or may not avoid plagiarism). <input type="checkbox"/> Does not cite sources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Quotes or paraphrases the data and conclusions of others with lapses in accuracy (may or may not avoid plagiarism). <input type="checkbox"/> Cites sources inconsistently 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Quotes or paraphrases the data and conclusions of others accurately (with no evidence of plagiarism). <input type="checkbox"/> Follows standard citation format. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Quotes or paraphrases the data and conclusions of others with accuracy (with no evidence of plagiarism). <input type="checkbox"/> Consistently follows standard citation and effectively embeds citations.
Language and Conventions L8.1-4; W8.1.d	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Shows little evidence of correct grammar/usage. <input type="checkbox"/> Makes convention errors (capitalization, punctuation, spelling) that impede communication. <input type="checkbox"/> Shows little or no evidence of how to use language and its conventions to create reader interest. <input type="checkbox"/> Shows little or no awareness of good word choice to convey appropriate tone for audience; does not establish a formal style. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Shows some evidence of correct grammar/usage. <input type="checkbox"/> Use of conventions is mostly correct; errors do not impede communication. <input type="checkbox"/> Shows some evidence of how to use language and its conventions to create reader interest. <input type="checkbox"/> Makes some good word choice to express appropriate tone, but also may use simple or ineffective language for audience and purpose; does not consistently maintain formal style. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Shows command of the conventions of standard English grammar/usage. <input type="checkbox"/> Shows command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling. <input type="checkbox"/> Uses knowledge of language and conventions to create reader interest and style, e.g., uses verbs in active/passive voice and conditional/subjunctive mood. <input type="checkbox"/> Chooses words to convey an appropriate tone for audience and purpose; consistently maintains a formal style. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Shows and maintains a consistent command of the conventions of standard English grammar/usage. <input type="checkbox"/> Shows and maintains a consistent command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling. <input type="checkbox"/> Skillfully uses knowledge of language and its conventions to connect with audience. <input type="checkbox"/> Chooses words carefully to convey and maintain an appropriate tone for audience and purpose within a formal style.