**Answering the Argumentative Essay**

**What you need to know:**

**Answering the Argumentative Essay:**

* 40 minutes to write this essay / worth 12.5% of your overall grade
* **MUST write in PEN**

**What do you have to do?:**

* ***Thesis:*** *Articulate a defensible claim or thesis that responds to the prompt and establishes a line of reasoning*
* ***Evidence:*** *Provide evidence from one of the foundational documents listed in the question to support the claim*
* ***Evidence:*** *Provide evidence from a second foundational document or from knowledge of course concepts to support the claim*
* ***Reasoning:*** *Use reasoning to explain why the evidence supports the claim*
* ***Counter-argument:*** *Respond to an opposing or alternative perspective using refutation, concession, or rebuttal*

**Citing the Foundational Documents:**

* ***DON’T QUOTE*** the documents. Write your sentence summarizing the document in your own words and then you cite the document at the end like this. (Doc A)
* Be sure to give depth of knowledge of the document. Don’t skim it, dig down deep into its content and use it to support your line of reasoning.
* **EXAMPLE**: Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence to explain to King George and his parliament why the American colonists were upset and declaring their Independence. Many grievances were listed in the document that spelled out specific injustices including the unlawful quartering of troops, taxation without representation, and for not allowing them a trial by a jury of their peers. (Doc B)

**Dos and Don’ts of Essay Writing**

* **Do** **not** use slang terms.
* **Do not use 1st person** NO (I, We, Our, US).
* **Always** use 3rd person past tense.
* **Remain objective** and stick to the facts, do not call Nazi’s bad guys, Hitler evil etc.

**How to write a thesis**

**Thesis/Claim (1 Point)**

* Thesis that directly states all the parts of the question (must make a historically defensible claim )
* Formula X. However A & B. Therefore Y
* X = represents the strongest point against your argument (counter argument)
* A & B are your strongest points that support your main argument (Organization Categories)
* Y = represents the position you will take (in other words your stance on the prompt)
* Grading Rubric
* **Thesis (1 point)**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1 Point**  Responds to the prompt with a thesis that establishes a line of reasoning. | **0 Points**  Responds to the prompt inaccurately or only addresses part of the question. | **0 Points**  Responds to the prompt vaguely, incoherently, or the statement is off topic. | **0 Points**  Merely restates the prompt. | **Notes**  To earn this point, the thesis must make a claim that responds to the prompt rather than restating or rephrasing the prompt. The thesis must consist of one or more sentences located SOMEWHERE in the essay. |

* **Evidence (3 points)**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **3 Points**  Provides two specific and relevant examples of evidence that support the argument crafted in the thesis. | **2 Points**  Provides one specific and relevant example of evidence that supports the argument crafted in the thesis. | **1 Point**  Provides one specific example of evidence accurately linked to the topic of the question. | **0 Points**  Evidence provided is too vague, inaccurate, or irrelevant to the prompt.  -OR-  Does not provide specific evidence relevant to the prompt. | **Notes**  1 point= accurately describes — rather than simply quotes — the content from one of the documents cited.  2 points= accurately describes — rather than simply quotes— one specific piece of evidence and ties it to the argument made.  3 points= accurately describes — rather than simply quotes — the content from TWO of the documents cited and ties it to the argument made.  **.** |

* **Analysis and Reasoning: (1 point)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1 Point**  Explains how or why the evidence provided supports the thesis and correctly answers the prompt. | **0 Points**  Analysis used is factually inaccurate, incomplete, or irrelevant to the thesis or prompt. | **0 Points**  No analysis is used; facts are stated without additional analysis that connects to the thesis or prompt. | **NOTES**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | The response must have  a claim/thesis to earn a  point. The response cannot  simply restate the prompt  to explain why the evidence  supports the |   claim/thesis.  The response cannot earn  a point without previously  supporting the claim/thesis  in B. To earn the point the  response must address at  least one piece of evidence. | |

* **Counterargument: (1 point)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1 Point**  Provides an opposing or alternate perspective using refutation, concession, or rebuttal that is consistent with the argument/thesis. | **0 Points**  Counterargument is factually inaccurate, incomplete, or irrelevant to the thesis.. | **0 Points**  No counterargument is provided. | **NOTES**  The response must have a claim or thesis to earn a point.  The response must identify an alternative perspective; demonstrate a correct understanding of the perspective; and refute, concede or rebut the perspective. |

**Student Grading Rubric Score**

6 = 98-100

5 = 93-97

4 = 83-90

3 = 73-80

2 = 60-70

1 = 50-59