## KEYSTONE ARGUMENTATIVE SCORING GUIDELINES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scoring Domain</th>
<th>Score Point 4 At this score point, the writer—</th>
<th>Score Point 3 At this score point, the writer—</th>
<th>Score Point 2 At this score point, the writer—</th>
<th>Score Point 1 At this score point, the writer—</th>
<th>Score Point 0 At this score point, the writer—</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Thesis/Focus** | ● establishes and sustains a precise claim or position  
● displays a clear understanding of task, purpose, and audience | ● establishes a claim or position  
● displays an understanding of task, purpose, and audience | ● provides an inconsistent claim or position  
● displays an inadequate understanding of task, purpose, and audience | ● provides vague or indistinct claim or position  
● displays a limited understanding of task, purpose, and audience | ● provides no evidence of claim or position  
● displays no understanding of task, purpose, and audience  
● does not respond to prompt |
| **Organization** | ● chooses sophisticated organizational strategies appropriate for task, purpose, and audience  
● presents fair and relevant evidence to support claim or position  
● includes a clear and well-defined introduction, body, and conclusion that support or reinforce the argument | ● chooses appropriate organizational strategies for task, purpose, and audience  
● presents relevant evidence to support claim or position  
● includes a clear introduction, body, and a conclusion that support the argument | ● displays little evidence of organizational strategies  
● presents insufficient evidence to support claim or position  
● may not include an introduction, body, and conclusion | ● displays little to no evidence of organizational strategies  
● presents little or no evidence to support claim or position  
● may not include an identifiable introduction, body, and conclusion  
● does not respond to prompt |
| **Content** | ● provides relevant content and specific and effective supporting details that demonstrate a clear understanding of purpose  
● uses sophisticated transitional words, phrases, and clauses to link ideas and create cohesion  
● considers counterclaims (alternate or opposing arguments) | ● provides relevant content and effective supporting details  
● uses transitional words, phrases, and clauses to link ideas  
● acknowledges counterclaims (alternate or opposing arguments) | ● provides insufficient content and ineffective supporting details  
● may use simplistic and/or illogical transitional expressions  
● may not acknowledge counterclaims (alternate or opposing arguments) | ● provides minimal content  
● uses few or no transitional expressions to link ideas  
● does not acknowledge counterclaims (alternate or opposing arguments)  
● does not respond to prompt |
| **Style** | ● uses consistently precise language and a wide variety of sentence structures  
● chooses an effective style and tone, and maintains a consistent point of view | ● uses precise language and a variety of sentence structures  
● chooses an appropriate style, tone, and point of view | ● uses imprecise language and a limited variety of sentence structures  
● may choose an inappropriate style or tone, and may shift point of view | ● uses simplistic or repetitious language and limited sentence structures  
● demonstrates little or no understanding of style, tone, or point of view  
● does not respond to prompt |

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