

KEYSTONE ARGUMENTATIVE SCORING GUIDELINES

Scoring Domain	Score Point 4 At this score point, the writer—	Score Point 3 At this score point, the writer—	Score Point 2 At this score point, the writer—	Score Point 1 At this score point, the writer—	Score Point 0 At this score point, the writer—
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 	 displays no evidence of organizational strategies presents no evidence to support claim or position does 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) 	 provides little to no content does not use transitions to link ideas 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 tone or point of view	 uses repetitious language and simple sentence structure demonstrates no understanding of style, tone, or point of view does not respond to prompt