

Grades 11-12 Argument Checklist

		YES!	STARTING TO	Not Yet
Overall	<p>I present an argument, offer context, honor others' points of view, and indicate the condition under which the position holds true.</p> <p>I develop the argument with logical reasoning and convincing evidence, acknowledge the limitations of the position and critique and cite sources.</p>			
IDEAS & ORGANIZATION				
Orientation/ Opening (Lead)	<p>I demonstrate the significance of the argument to capture audience's interest and offer hints of upcoming parts of the essay.</p> <p>I present needed background information to show the complexity of the issue.</p> <p>I introduce the overall line of logic the argument will take and distinguish that line of logic from others.</p>			
Development of Ideas (Elaboration)	<p>I develop the aspects of the argument that are most significant to the audience and to the purposes.</p> <p>I articulate the validity of sources – evaluate sources' reasoning to enhance position and refute alternative points of view.</p> <p>I angle and/or frame evidence to clearly and fairly represent various perspectives, while also maintaining a clear position.</p>			
Development of Internal Structure (Organization & Transitions)	<p>I create a logical and compelling structure for the argument so that each part builds on a prior section, and the whole moves readers toward understandings.</p> <p>I use transitions to clarify relationships between claims, reasons, and evidence, and helps readers follow the logic in the argument.</p> <p>I also use transitions to clarify relationships between sources and to claims.</p>			
Closure (Ending)	<p>I clarify the conditions under which the position holds true, discuss possible applications or consequences, and/or offer possible solutions.</p>			
CRAFT & STYLE				
Word Choice and Tone (Craft)	<p>I intend to make the reader think, realize, or feel a particular way – I select language to do that.</p> <p>I use other literary devices, and may use allusions.</p> <p>I vary the tone to match the purposes of different sections of the argument, as well as to develop and overall impact.</p>			
Sentence Fluency/ Syntax (Sentence Structure)	<p>I use sentence structure and verb tense purposefully (i.e., using fragments to emphasize key points, using present tense to create immediacy).</p>			
LANGUAGE CONVENTIONS				
Conventions (Spelling & Punctuation)	<p>I use punctuation to emphasize connections, to strengthen tone, and to clarify and add complexity.</p> <p>I use accurate spelling throughout, including cited text and citations.</p>			