**Argument Paragraph Rough Draft**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Green** | **Claim (Topic Sentence)** - *What is your claim?* ***NO*** *first person words (I, you, he, she, we).*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| **Yellow** | **Evidence Piece #1** - *Directly “quote” evidence AND cite the source.*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| **Red** | **Reasoning for Evidence Piece #1** - ***Explain*** *why the evidence above supports the claim. Convince your reader!*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| **Yellow** | **Evidence Piece #2** - *Directly “quote” evidence AND cite the source.*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| **Red** | **Reasoning for Evidence Piece #2** - ***Explain*** *why the evidence above supports the claim. Convince your reader!*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| **Green** | **Conclusion Sentence** - *Refer to the claim but don’t just re-copy it. Mention the evidence and how it supports the claim.*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |

**Argument Rubric**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **4 Advanced** | **3 Proficient** | **2 Below Proficient** | **1 Far Below Proficient** |
| **Claim**(Topic Sentence)(green) | Introduces and clearly asserts a claim. | Introduces a claim | Introduces a weak and unclear claim | Does not introduce a claim |
| **Evidence**(yellow) | * uses credible sources to strongly support the claim with the most relevant evidence
* provides basic bibliographic information for all sources (e.g. in-text citations, author’s name and title listed)
* no errors
 | problem with 1 criterion | problem with 2 criteria | problem with all criteria |
| **Reasoning** (red) | * clear and organized reasoning
* effectively uses transitional words, phrases, and clauses
* clarifies the relationship among the claim, reasons, and evidence
 | problem with 1 criterion | problem with 2 criteria | problem with all criteria |
| **Evidence**(yellow) | * uses credible sources to strongly support the claim with the most relevant evidence
* provides basic bibliographic information for all sources (e.g. in-text citations, author’s name and title listed)
* no errors
 | problem with 1 criterion | problem with 2 criteria | problem with all criteria |
| **Reasoning** (red) | * clear and organized reasoning
* effectively uses transitional words, phrases, and clauses
* clarifies the relationship among the claim, reasons, and evidence
 | problem with 1 criterion | problem with 2 criteria | problem with all criteria |
| **Conclusion**(green) | Provides a concluding statement that:* refers back to your initial claim
* is NOT a copy of your topic sentence
* makes mention of your evidence
 | problem with 1 criterion | problem with 2 criteria | problem with all criteria |
| **Language** | * establishes and maintains a style that is formal, sophisticated, and consistent
* varies sentence structures, lengths, starters, and transitions
* demonstrates command of the conventions of standard English with regards to capitalization, punctuation, and grammar
 | problem with 1 criterion | problem with 2 criteria | problem with all criteria |

**Sentence Starters for Arguments**

If you’re having some writer’s block, use these helpful starters to get you going on your way.

**Hook:**

*Grab the reader’s attention in a thought provoking and meaningful way with a story, a rhetorical question (re-phrased into sentence form), or a quotation.*

**Claim (Topic Sentence):**

* After reading *(title of article),* many would undoubtedly argue that *(state your claim)*.

**Evidence:**

* The evidence that supports this claim states “*(direct quote)*”
* According to the article “*(article title)*,” the author states “*(direct quote)*.”
* For example, “*(direct quote)*”
* Another piece of evidence states “*(direct quote)*”
* “(*another direct quote to support your previous yellow*)” also maintains that (*your claim*).
* In addition, “*(direct quote)*”

**Reasoning:**

* This demonstrates *(your claim)* because…
* This evidence sustains that *(your claim)* because...
* This displays *(your claim)* because…
* This means that…
* Therefore…
* Based on the evidence, it can be concluded that…

**Conclusion Sentence:**

* For *(reason 1)* and *(reason 2)*, *(the claim)* is completely justified.

**Transitions**

Transitions are like bridges between your ideas - they help your readers move from one idea to the next. Here are some transition words and phrases you may wish you use in your essay. Keep in mind that they can be used at the beginning of a sentence or within a sentence.

If you are adding information or showing similarity between ideas:

* additionally
* in addition
* besides
* another
* furthermore

If you are showing that one idea is different from another:

* however
* yet
* even though
* despite
* in contrast
* in spite of
* on one hand

If you are showing that something is an example of what you just stated:

* for example
* for instance
* to illustrate
* namely
* specifically

If you want to show cause and effect:

* as a result
* it follows that
* consequently
* therefore
* eventually

If you want to add emphasis:

* in fact
* of course
* truly
* indeed