ENGL 100 Argumentative Essay Rubric Name_____ ID_____ Date_____

CATEGORY	Excellent 5	Good 4	Average 3	Below Average 2	Needs Improvement 1	SCORE
Intro: Hook	The introduction begins with a quotation, anecdote, little known fact or statistic, or explanation of an unfamiliar technical term. The hook is related to the general topic of the paper.	The introduction begins with a quotation, anecdote, little known fact or statistic, or explanation of an unfamiliar technical term. The hook is not related to the general topic of the paper.	The introduction begins with a question as the hook. The hook is related to the general topic of the paper.	The introduction begins with a question as the hook. The hook is not related to the general topic of the paper.	The introduction does not begin with a hook.	5%
Intro: Background information	Background provides readers with sufficient information necessary to understand the topic and why it is important and controversial.	Background generally provides readers with sufficient information necessary to understand the topic and why it is important and controversial.	Background generally provides readers with sufficient information necessary to understand the topic, but not why it is important or controversial.	Background generally provides readers with sufficient information necessary to understand the topic, but not why it is important and controversial.	Background is either missing and/or is not related to the general topic or the thesis.	10%
Intro: Flow of ideas	Transitions or transitional sentences provide a logical flow between hook, background, and thesis.	Transitions or transitional sentences generally provide a logical flow between hook, background, and thesis.	One transition or transitional sentence may be missing so that there is not a logical flow between hook, background, and thesis.	An ineffective attempt has been made to provide a logical flow between hook, background, and thesis sentence.	There is no logical flow between hook, background, and thesis sentence.	5%
Intro: Thesis	Contains specific topic, rhetorical pattern and organization (aspects or number of aspects).	Contains specific topic and rhetorical pattern but not organization (aspects or number of aspects.	Contains only general topic but no rhetorical pattern or organization (aspects or number of aspects.	Thesis sentence is not related to claims.	Thesis sentence is missing.	15%
Claims	Each claim paragraph contains a topic sentence and is well-developed. All supporting details serve to substantiate the thesis statement. Explanation goes beyond the obvious or predictable.	Each claim paragraph contains a topic sentence that is adequately supported by relevant concrete details. Most supporting details serve to substantiate the thesis statement.	Topic sentences are stated in some claim paragraphs. Supporting details are relevant, but some key issues are unsupported.	Topic sentences are weak. Supporting details and information are unclear or unrelated to the topic. There is a random collection of information. Support for the thesis statement is weak.	Thesis statement lacks proof. No topic sentence is present OR no concrete details are present. The paragraphs contain no facts, details, or examples.	20%

Counterargument & Refutation	The counterargument is clearly stated and refuted with evidence, logic, or by pointing out discrepancies in the opposing argument.	The counterargument is clearly stated but refutation lacks convincing evidence and/or logical reasoning	The counterargument is not clear and refutation lacks evidence and logical reasoning.	The counterargument is stated but not refuted.	Both the counterargument and refutation are missing	10%
Conclusion	Begins with inference, summarizes claims; ends with sentence that "echoes" back to introduction.	Begins with inference, summarizes claims; does not end with sentence that "echoes" back to introduction.	Begins with paraphrase of thesis sentence, summarizes claims, and/or does not end with sentence that "echoes" back to introduction.	Begins with paraphrase of thesis sentence, forgets to summarize all claims, and/or does not end with sentence that "echoes" back to introduction.	Does not begin with inference or paraphrase of thesis sentence, forgets to summarize all claims, and/or does not end with sentence that "echoes" back to introduction.	10%
Argumentative & academic vocabulary	The use of academic vocabulary is exceptional. Transitions vary and are used appropriately.	There is evidence of academic vocabulary as well as correct transitions and connectors.	There is little evidence of academic vocabulary; transitions and connectors are weak	There is no evidence of academic vocabulary; transitions and connectors are weak or wrong	Academic vocabulary, transitions and connectors are absent.	5%
Sentence structure	A variety of sentence patterns is used. Uses appositives, participial phrases, and absolute phrases to emphasize important points.	A variety of sentence patterns is generally used. Use of appositives, participial phrases, and absolute phrases to emphasize important points.	A limited variety of sentence patterns is generally used. Limited use of appositives, participial phrases, and absolute phrases to emphasize important points.	Two types of sentence patterns are generally used. No use of appositives, participial phrases, and absolute phrases to emphasize important points.	No variety of sentence patterns is used.	5%
Mechanics	Has no errors in grammar, spelling, punctuation, etc.	Has one error in grammar, spelling, and/or punctuation, etc.	Has two errors in grammar, spelling, and/or punctuation, etc.	Has three errors in grammar, spelling, and/or punctuation, etc.	Has four or more errors in grammar, spelling, and/or punctuation, etc.	5%
Documentation of other people's ideas/words	Uses APA style for citations of other people's ideas; follows guidelines for formatting.	Uses APA style for citations for other people's ideas; generally follows guidelines for formatting.	Cites other people's ideas but may have one error in APA style for citations; generally follows guidelines for formatting.	Cites other people's ideas but may have one error in APA style for citations or one error in APA formatting.	Does not cite other people's ideas. Paper is not typed in essay template so that APA formatting is not used, or author has changed formatting.	10%