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