FCPS RUBRIC FOR ARGUMENTATIVE WRITING COMMON ASSESSMENT

KEY TRAITS	4	3	2	1
CLAIM AND AUDIENCE	 Addresses all aspects of prompt appropriately with a consistently strong focus. Establishes and maintains a clear, specific and credible claim. Introduction effectively engages the audience by providing relevant background information necessary to anticipate its needs. 	 Addresses prompt appropriately and maintains a clear, steady focus. Establishes a clear claim. Introduction provides adequate background information that generally anticipates audience needs. 	 Addresses prompt appropriately and establishes a position, but focus is uneven. Makes a general claim. Includes irrelevant or inconsistent background information. 	 Attempts to address prompt, but lacks focus or is off-task. May attempt to establish a claim, but it may be unclear. Does not provide background knowledge or show awareness of audience needs.
IDEAS AND EVIDENCE	 Includes well-chosen details, examples, and/or quotations from sources that support the claim and supporting ideas. Thoroughly and accurately explains ideas and source material, using reasoning to support and develop the argument. Opposing claim(s) and counterclaim(s) (rebuttal) are developed fairly and thoroughly. 	 Includes details, examples, and/or quotations from sources that are relevant to the claim and supporting ideas. Accurately explains ideas and source material and how they support the argument. Opposing claim(s) and counterclaim(s) (rebuttal)are identified adequately. 	 Includes details, examples, and/or quotations from sources that are relevant to the claim. Explanation of ideas and source material is minimal or contains minor errors. Opposing claim(s) and counterclaim(s) (rebuttal) may or may not be addressed. 	 Includes minimal details from sources. Explanation of ideas and source material is irrelevant, incomplete, or inaccurate. Opposing claim(s) and counterclaim(s) (rebuttal) are neither identified nor developed.
ORGANIZATION	 Groups and sequences ideas logically to develop the claim and create cohesion. Transitions create cohesion and logically connect evidence and reasons to the claim. Sentences have a variety of beginnings, lengths, and structures. They flow rhythmically. 	 Groups and sequences ideas to develop the claim. A few more transitions are needed to connect evidence and reasons to the claim; the text could be more coherent. Sentences are correctly structured and complete, but could have more variety and flow. 	 Groups ideas but has lapses in coherence or organization. More transitions are needed to connect evidence and reasons to the claim; the text is incoherent in some places. Sentence structures have very little variety, and some fragments or runon sentences are present. 	 Lacks an evident structure. Transitions are not used, making the argument incoherent and difficult to understand. Repetitive sentence structure, fragments, and run-on sentences make the writing hard to follow.
LANGUAGE	 Maintains a tone appropriate to the audience and purpose. Demonstrates varied and precise word choice. Consistently uses correct grammar, usage, spelling, and mechanics to communicate effectively. 	 May have occasional lapses in language that cause tone to weaken. Chooses words that are generally appropriate for purpose/audience. Adequately demonstrates correct grammar, usage, spelling, and mechanics and errors do not impede understanding. 	 Writer's tone is weak. Uses inconsistent word choice (mix of appropriate, simple, and inappropriate). Includes frequent errors in grammar, usage, spelling, and mechanics that may impede understanding. 	 Writer's tone is inappropriate or absent. Uses simple or inappropriate words. Errors that appear in grammar, usage, spelling, and mechanics impede understanding of the text.