
AP[®] U.S. Government and Politics

Scoring Rubric

Free-Response Question 4: Argument Essay

Effective **Fall 2019**

Scoring Rubric for Question 4: Argument Essay

6 points

Reporting Category	Scoring Criteria			
<p>Row A</p> <p>Claim/Thesis (0-1 points)</p> <p>5.A</p>	<p>0 points</p>		<p>1 point</p> <p>Responds to the prompt with a defensible claim or thesis that establishes a line of reasoning.</p>	
<p>Decision Rules and Scoring Notes</p>				
<p>Responses that do not earn this point:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The intended claim or thesis only restates the prompt. The intended claim or thesis does not make a claim that responds to the prompt. 			<p>Responses that earn this point:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The claim or thesis responds to the prompt rather than restating or rephrasing the prompt and establishes a line of reasoning. 	
<p>Additional Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The claim or thesis must consist of one or more sentences that may be located anywhere in the response. A claim or thesis that meets the criteria can be awarded the point whether or not the rest of the response successfully supports that line of reasoning. 				
<p>Row B</p> <p>Evidence (0-3 points)</p> <p>5.B</p>	<p>0 points</p>	<p>1 point</p> <p>Provides one piece of evidence that is <u>relevant to the topic</u> of the prompt.</p>	<p>2 points</p> <p>Uses <u>one</u> piece of specific and relevant evidence to <u>support the claim or thesis</u>.</p>	<p>3 points</p> <p>Uses <u>two</u> pieces of specific and relevant evidence to <u>support the claim or thesis</u>.</p>
<p>Decision Rules and Scoring Notes</p>				
<p>Responses that do not earn points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not provide any accurate evidence Provide evidence that is not relevant to the topic 		<p>Responses that earn 1 point:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must provide one example of evidence relevant to the topic of the prompt May or may not have a claim or thesis 	<p>Responses that earn 2 points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must provide one piece of specific and relevant evidence that supports the claim or thesis. This evidence can come from one of the foundational documents listed in the prompt, any other foundational document, or from knowledge of course concepts. 	<p>Responses that earn 3 points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must provide two pieces of specific and relevant evidence that support the claim or thesis. One of these pieces of evidence must come from a foundational document listed in the prompt. The other piece of evidence can come from a different foundational document or from knowledge of course concepts.
<p>Additional Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To earn two or three points in Row B, the response must have a defensible claim or thesis (earned the point in Row A). To earn three points, the response must use one of the foundational documents listed in the prompt. 				

Reporting Category	Scoring Criteria	
Row C Reasoning (0-1 points) 5.C	0 points	1 point Explains how or why the evidence supports the claim or thesis
	Decision Rules and Scoring Notes	
	Responses that do not earn this point: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include evidence but offer no reasoning to connect the evidence to the claim or thesis • Restate the prompt without explaining how the evidence supports the claim or thesis 	Responses that earn this point: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must explain the relationship between the evidence provided and the claim or thesis
	Additional Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To earn this point, the response must have a defensible claim or thesis (earned the point in Row A) and support that argument with at least one piece of specific and relevant specific and relevant evidence (earned at least 2 points in Row B). • The explanation of the relationship between one piece of evidence and the claim or thesis is sufficient to earn this point. 	
Row D Responds to Alternate Perspectives (0-1 points) 5.D	0 points	1 point Responds to an opposing or alternate perspective using refutation, concession, or rebuttal
	Decision Rules and Scoring Notes	
	Responses that do not earn this point: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restate the opposite of the claim or thesis • May identify or describe an alternate perspective but do not refute, concede, or rebut that perspective • Refute a foundational document rather than an alternate perspective to the provided claim or thesis 	Responses that earn this point: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must describe an alternate perspective AND refute, concede, or rebut that perspective
	Additional Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To earn this point, the response must have a defensible claim or thesis (earned the point in Row A). • Responses that demonstrate an incorrect understanding of the alternate perspective do not earn this point. 	