

**AP United States Government and Politics  
Scoring Rubric for 2020 Question 1: Argument Essay**

**7 points**

Reporting Category	Scoring Criteria			
<p><b>Row A</b> Claim/Thesis (0-1 points)</p> <p><b>5.A</b></p>	<p><b>0 points</b></p>		<p><b>1 point</b> Responds to the prompt with a defensible claim or thesis that establishes a line of reasoning.</p>	
<b>Decision Rules and Scoring Notes</b>				
<p><b>Responses that do not earn this point:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The intended claim or thesis only restates the prompt.</li> <li>The intended claim or thesis does not make a claim that responds to the prompt.</li> </ul>		<p><b>Responses that earn this point:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The claim or thesis responds to the prompt rather than restating or rephrasing the prompt and establishes a line of reasoning.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Additional Notes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The claim or thesis must consist of one or more sentences that may be located anywhere in the response.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>				
<p><b>Row B</b> Evidence (0-4 points)</p> <p><b>5.B</b></p>	<p><b>0 points</b></p>	<p><b>1 point or 2 points</b> Provides one piece of evidence (1 pt) or two pieces of evidence (2 pts) that are <u>relevant to the topic of the prompt</u>.</p>	<p><b>3 points</b> Must provide <u>two</u> pieces of specific and relevant evidence, and use one piece to <u>support the claim or thesis</u>.</p>	<p><b>4 points</b> Uses <u>two</u> pieces of specific and relevant evidence to <u>support the claim or thesis</u>.</p>
<b>Decision Rules and Scoring Notes</b>				
<p><b>Responses that do not earn points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not provide any accurate evidence</li> <li>Provide evidence that is not relevant to the topic</li> </ul>	<p><b>Responses that earn 1 point:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must provide one example of evidence relevant to the topic of the prompt</li> <li>May or may not have a claim or thesis</li> </ul> <p><b>Responses that earn 2 points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must provide two examples of evidence relevant to the topic of the prompt</li> <li>May or may not have a claim or thesis</li> </ul>	<p><b>Responses that earn 3 points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must provide two pieces of specific evidence relevant to the topic of the prompt. One of these pieces of evidence must support the claim or thesis. The evidence may come from one of the foundational documents listed in the prompt, any other foundational document, or from knowledge of course concepts.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Responses that earn 4 points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must provide two pieces of specific and relevant evidence that support the claim or thesis. One of these pieces of evidence <b>must</b> 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.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Additional Notes:</b></p>				
<p><b>For 2020 only</b>, two points will be awarded for students who provide two examples of evidence relevant to the topic of the prompt.</p>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To earn three or four points in Row B, the response must have a defensible claim or thesis (earned the point in Row A).</li> <li>To earn four points, the response must use one of the foundational documents listed in the prompt.</li> </ul>				

An additional point has been added in Row B to award points for each piece of evidence separately



Reporting Category	Scoring Criteria	
<p><b>Row C</b></p> <p><b>Reasoning</b> <b>(0-2 points)</b></p> <p><b>5.C</b></p>	<p><b>0 points</b></p>	<p><b>1 point</b></p> <p>Explains how or why one piece of evidence supports the claim or thesis</p> <p><b>2 points</b></p> <p>Explains how or why two pieces of evidence support the claim or thesis</p>
<p>Each piece of evidence that is supported with reasoning will earn one point (up to 2 pts)</p>	<p><b>Decision Rules and Scoring Notes</b></p>	
	<p><b>Responses that do not earn this point:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include evidence but offer no reasoning to connect the evidence to the claim or thesis</li> <li>• Restate the prompt without explaining how the evidence supports the claim or thesis</li> </ul>	<p><b>Responses that earn 1 point:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must explain the relationship between the evidence provided and the claim or thesis for at least one piece of evidence</li> </ul> <p><b>Responses that earn 2 points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must explain the relationship between the evidence provided and the claim or thesis for at least two pieces of evidence</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Additional Notes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To earn one or two points, 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 evidence (earned at least 3 points in Row B).</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Additional Note: For 2020 only, Row D (Alternative Perspective) is not included and responses will not be awarded points for responding to alternative perspectives</b></p>	