

Article Response Paper rubric

Prof. Rubric Curator, EssayTagger Rubric Library

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| | Level 1 (strongest) | Level 2 | Level 3 | Level 4 |
|--|--|---|---|--|
| Thesis <i>sentence-level</i> | - Not bad. Could be focused in a bit tighter, but it works. | - Not bad. It could be a bit more declarative to clearly tell the reader what you're arguing for and why it matters. - Strong claim but needs the "So what?" to really be compelling and interesting. | - Lacks the "So what?" This is more of an introductory claim than an overall thesis. - Not much of a thesis. Offers no hint as to why you're making this argument or why the reader should care. | - Is this your thesis? It's hard to tell. Remember that bolding your thesis is an assignment requirement. - I doubt this is really your thesis. - This IS a claim, but it isn't what you're arguing for in this paper. It isn't your thesis. |
| Article quote <i>sentence-level</i> | - Solid choice. Evidence backs up your argument. | - Decent selection of evidence, thought its connection to your point is a little weak. | - Only adds a little to your argument. | - Need the actual quotation. Paraphrasing won't suffice here. - No quotation plops!! You have to integrate the quotation into the flow of your paragraph! This is just a cut-and-paste dump-in! |
| Class discussion quote <i>sentence-level</i> | - Strong evidence that supports your argument. | - Decent evidence. It does speak to your point, though I think you probably could have found something a little stronger. | - Evidence seems only tangentially related to the point you're trying to make. - Quotation is good, but too long. Just take the most important pieces. - Quotation doesn't add much to your argument. | - This quotation is WAY too long. The quotations are supposed to back up your claims, not completely take over entire paragraphs. Try to limit yourself to only 1-3 sentences per quotation. - No quotation plops!! You have to integrate the quotation into the flow of your paragraph! This is just a cut-and-paste dump-in! |
| Topic sentence <i>sentence-level</i> | - Not bad. Clear statement of what you're arguing for in this paragraph. | - You do state a clear direction for the paragraph, but it could really use the "So what?" - it's not clear why this is important to your argument. - Strong topic sentence, but might be taking on too much. Consider breaking this into two paragraphs. | - The reader can sort of guess where this paragraph is going but not exactly how or why it fits into your overall argument. Need to be a lot more clear in each topic sentence. - Too vague and comes too late in the paragraph to be your topic sentence. - Topic sentence comes way too late. Needs to be the first or second sentence in your paragraph. | - This is a statement, but not a topic sentence. It gives the reader no indication of what this paragraph is about. - This is a trivial fact. It doesn't advance your argument nor does it tell the reader where this paragraph is headed. |
| Paragraph focus (¶) <i>paragraph-level</i> | - Pretty good focus overall. - Really strong focus. Well done. | - Decent focus. A slightly stronger topic sentence would have helped the paragraph's focus. - Decent focus despite the weak topic sentence. - Good focus, but evidence would make the paragraph stronger. - No glaring errors but I'm just lukewarm on this paragraph. | - Focus was okay, but without evidence it isn't convincing. - The paragraph is overwhelmed by the quotation; there isn't enough of your own voice in there to move your argument forward. - Focus is kind of irrelevant when the topic sentence is this weak. - Without any real evidence, there just isn't much to focus on in this paragraph; it isn't convincing. - Decent focus, but your topic sentence doesn't match what you're arguing. - Paragraph seems incomplete - you didn't fully explore this phase of your argument. | - This is a jumbled mess. Needs to be edited and focused. - I get where you're going here, but this paragraph needs more work to get focused on your point. - One giant paragraph? Really? You know that is NEVER acceptable! - Never start a paragraph with a quotation! Always set it up first with a strong topic sentence, then go into the evidence. |
| Attention to audience <i>whole document</i> | - You do keep your focus on your audience and tailor your argument to appeal to them. Well done. | - You do try to keep the focus on your audience, but it begins to drift and isn't as directly relevant as it could be. | - You are trying to keep the focus on your audience, but your word choice makes this pointed toward a more general audience. | - It's not clear who your audience is; you don't seem to be writing to anyone in particular. - Only a token effort to speak to your audience. Most of this is written to a non-existent, totally generic audience. |
| Organization <i>whole document</i> | | - There is an underlying organization present, but each paragraph needs to get more focused to clearly advance each phase of the argument. - The basic structure is there. A bit more work and the organization will be very clear to the reader. | - There's just enough organization for it to hold together from paragraph to paragraph. Think about it in terms of an outline; is each paragraph really building toward your overall point? I think you'll see that the organization is somewhat random. - There is organization, but it isn't quite flowing and connecting together as well as it should. | - The organization may or may not be okay, but it's hidden under the messy individual paragraphs. They make it impossible for this to seem like a well-structured argument. - Without paragraph breaks it's impossible to discern much organization here. - I have no clue what's going on here. |