

Utah Compose Opinion/Argument Essay Rubric: Student Version

Writing Analysis	5	4	3	2	1
Development of Ideas	<p>This essay is clear, controlled and focused, and is appropriate for the task, purpose, and audience.</p> <p>Your essay has balance and exhibits good control of connections between ideas.</p> <p>You have expressed your ideas in a convincing manner by providing ample support.</p> <p>Your essay holds the reader's attention through details, facts, examples, anecdotes, and description that enrich your main idea.</p> <p>You have used appropriate literary strategies or techniques to develop your opinion/argument essay.</p> <p>You have an introduction and concluding statement or section that are effectively connected to the rest of the essay.</p> <p>An effective introduction and conclusion leave the reader with a sense of completeness.</p>	<p>Your opinion is expressed in a somewhat convincing manner through the use of adequate supporting reasons. The writing is clear, focused and persuasive.</p> <p>The opinions/arguments are clearly presented and move easily from general ideas to more specific ones.</p> <p>The main idea and supporting details are successfully balanced throughout the essay.</p>	<p>Have you used specific details to support your opinion/argument?</p> <p>Have you used enough supporting reasons, facts, examples, details, and/or descriptions for your opinion/argument?</p> <p>Did you keep your task, purpose and audience in mind?</p> <p>Have you used appropriate literary strategies or techniques to develop your argument/opinion?</p> <p>Does your essay have a clear conclusion?</p> <p>Are your ideas thoughtful and interesting?</p> <p>Do you have an introduction and concluding statement or section that are clearly connected to the rest of the essay?</p> <p>Are your linking words and phrases clear and helpful in connecting your ideas?</p> <p>Is your essay appropriate for its task, purpose and audience?</p>	<p>Do you need to include more details in your essay?</p> <p>Does your essay have sufficient information, explanation, details and/or description to explain your position or your ideas?</p> <p>Are your information, explanation, details and/or description adequate enough to fully develop your main idea?</p> <p>Have you used any literary strategies or techniques to develop your opinion/argument?</p> <p>Does your essay have a conclusion?</p> <p>Have you done more than just list or repeat the details in your essay?</p> <p>Do you have an introduction and concluding statement or section that are connected to the rest of the essay?</p> <p>Can the reader easily follow what you are saying?</p>	<p>Have you written enough to achieve a higher score?</p> <p>Have you expressed your opinion or main idea clearly?</p> <p>Did the details you included fit with the subject you were talking about?</p> <p>Have you added details to make your essay better?</p> <p>Do you have an introduction and concluding statement or section?</p> <p>Have you used any literary strategies or techniques to develop your opinion/argument?</p>
Organization	<p>Your essay is appropriate for its task, purpose and audience.</p> <p>The transitions or connections between your ideas are seamless and smooth.</p> <p>Your essay is carefully organized with well-placed details from beginning to end.</p> <p>The writing is well balanced and moves along smoothly.</p> <p>The organization of this essay enhances and highlights the main idea.</p>	<p>Your introduction and conclusion are functional and connected to the main idea.</p> <p>The details are generally well placed and relevant to the main idea.</p> <p>The transitions between ideas are appropriate and work well.</p> <p>The writing has balance and progresses along at an even pace.</p>	<p>Have you worked on making the transitions or connections between your ideas better?</p> <p>Does the placement and relevance of your details cause any confusion?</p> <p>Does your essay progress logically from one idea to the next?</p> <p>Have you written a clear introduction and conclusion to your essay?</p>	<p>Did you take into account the task, purpose and audience?</p> <p>Are there connections and transitions between your ideas?</p> <p>Are your details relevant and do they contribute to the main idea?</p> <p>Have you attempted to write an introduction and a conclusion that are related to the main ideas in your essay?</p>	<p>Did you create a plan for your essay before you started writing?</p> <p>Have you written enough that there is some organization evident?</p> <p>Are your ideas clear and linked together with transitions?</p> <p>Are there any gaps in information that might confuse the reader?</p> <p>Have you been careful not to ramble and jump from one idea to another?</p>
Style	<p>You speak directly to the audience through expressive and engaging writing.</p> <p>The language is natural and brings the topic to life.</p> <p>The reader feels a strong sense of interaction with the writer and senses the person behind the words.</p> <p>You have established and maintained a consistent, individual style.</p> <p>You may have taken some compositional risks to enhance your writing.</p>	<p>Your writing seems genuine and you appear to be involved in the topic. The tone is appropriate and fits the topic, purpose and audience.</p> <p>Your personal view is present throughout the entire essay.</p>	<p>Is your opinion/argument compelling?</p> <p>Have you written what you truly feel or what you think the audience wants to hear?</p> <p>Is your personal view present throughout the entire essay?</p>	<p>Have you made your opinion/argument?</p> <p>Did you write with your task, purpose, and audience in mind?</p> <p>Have you made your essay engaging?</p>	<p>Have you written enough?</p> <p>Have you thought carefully about your reason for writing about this topic?</p> <p>Is your opinion/argument clear?</p>

Writing Analysis	5	4	3	2	1
Word Choice	<p>The words convey the intended message in an interesting and precise way. The words are specific and accurate. Your vocabulary is vivid, natural, and not overdone. Excellent word choice gives this essay power.</p>	<p>Are there places where, though correct, the words lack excitement? Though your vocabulary is natural, are there places where it might be overdone? The writing in this essay is clear and easy to interpret, but it may not always be succinct. The word choice in this essay conveys the message in a realistic and reasonable way.</p>	<p>Does the language in your essay, though generally correct, lack precision? Does your paper have clichés, redundancies or overused phrases? Is there any colorful or poetic language used effectively to engage the reader? Are there places where the essay seems to be generic or ordinary?</p>	<p>Do the words you have used lack specificity? Are the words in your essay general or dull? Do you repeat the same general phrases over and over?</p>	<p>Have you chosen the correct words to express your ideas and to make the meaning of each sentence clear? Are you sure that the verbs, nouns and adjectives you used were the correct ones? Do you repeat the same words or phrases over and over? Are the words you have chosen specific and grade-appropriate?</p>
Sentence Structure	<p>The writing in this essay is very natural and fluent. The amount of sentence variety present in this essay makes the text interesting. The writing is concise and effective in conveying your meaning.</p>	<p>Generally, the sentences in this essay are well crafted. The writing in the essay moves along at a fairly consistent pace. You show control of both simple and complex syntax. This essay contains a variety of sentence structures and lengths.</p>	<p>Are there errors in the construction of more complex sentences? Is there a pattern of the same type of sentence throughout the essay? Are there places where awkward sentences force the reader to slow down? Do the sentences flow smoothly one after the other or are they stilted?</p>	<p>Do you have sentence fragments or awkward sentences that disrupt the flow of your essay? Have you used correct grammar throughout your essay? Have you used different types of sentences instead of just simple sentences? Do all of your sentences look and sound similar to each other?</p>	<p>Are the sentences you have written correct ones, or were there run-ons, fragments, and/or comma splices? Have you used correct grammar throughout your essay? Are your sentences choppy or awkward? Do any of your sentences cause confusion?</p>
Conventions	<p>You have demonstrated a good grasp of standard writing conventions. This essay is sufficiently long and complex and shows command of a wide range of conventions. Errors in spelling, grammar and punctuation are few, if any, and they do not interrupt the flow of reading.</p>	<p>Although there may be some errors, you have demonstrated an overall grasp of standard writing conventions. The spelling of common words is correct but may not be consistent for the more difficult ones. This essay is fairly long but the writing could show more evidence of complexity.</p>	<p>Have you made some spelling, punctuation and/or capitalization errors that might cause some confusion for the reader? Have you written enough to show that you have control of spelling, punctuation and/or capitalization? Do you have consistent control over the paragraphing in your essay?</p>	<p>Are there very noticeable errors in your essay that might make it difficult to understand what you are trying to say? Have you made sure that your spelling, punctuation and capitalization are correct? Have you used paragraphs correctly?</p>	<p>Do the number of errors seriously interfere with communication and make it difficult for the reader to understand what you are trying to say? Have you made sure that your spelling, punctuation and capitalization are correct? Have you used paragraphs correctly?</p>