Assessment of Argumentative Writing in Science Scoring Guide

Aspect of the Essay		Point Value		
		0	1	2
Argument Structure	1.1 The author made the claim that s/he was trying to refute explicit to the reader. *The author should be refuting the expert's claim*	No	Somewhat	Yes
	1.2 The author provided several reasons for why the expert's claim is not accurate and/or acceptable. *If the student argues for the expert claim, then 1.1, 1.2, and 1.4 are automatically "No" and "None". 'Reasons' can be anything when scored at the structural level.*	None	Only One	≥ Two
	1.3 The author made the claim that s/he was advancing explicit to the reader. *The claim may be found anywhere in the essay*	No	Somewhat	Yes
	1.4 The author provided several reasons to support the validity or the acceptability of his or her claim. *When analyzing a reason statement, count it only one time, either as refuting the expert claim or supporting the author claim, not as both. Again, 'reasons' can be anything when scored at the structural level.*	None	Only One	≥ Two
Argument Content	2.1 The author provided reasons for why the expert's claim is not accurate that are empirical or analytical in nature. *If the student argues for the expert's claim, then this is automatically "No".*	No	Somewhat	Yes
	2.2 The author provided reasons in support of his or her claim that are empirical or analytical in nature. *Mark 'yes' if all the reasons provided by the author are either empirical (i.e., uses the data available) or analytical (e.g., points out a flaw in the expert's analysis) in nature. If one of the reasons does not meet these characteristics, then mark 'somewhat'. Mark 'no' if more than one reason does not meet the characteristics.*	No	Somewhat	Yes
	2.3 The author's interpretation of the data provided in the prompt was valid and relevant. *Mark 'no' if there are no relationships made between pieces of data and if they focus on data that is not relevant. Mark 'somewhat' if only one of these criteria is met. Mark 'yes' if all these criteria are met.*	No	Partially	Yes
	2.4 The author's overall argument was coherent and focused. *Mark 'no' if the author included a lot of extraneous information that was not needed to support or challenge the claim (i.e., it appeared that the author added information just to add information).*	No	Somewhat	Yes
	2.5 The author used scientific terms correctly and used rhetorical references that do not misrepresent NOS or NOSI *Mark 'yes' if the author used scientific terms (e.g., data, evidence, etc.) correctly and used rhetorical references that do not misrepresent the nature of science or the nature of scientific inquiry (e.g., these data suggest, etc.) throughout the essay. Mark 'mostly' if there are only 1 or 2 instances where the author misused a term such as evidence or claims that the evidence 'proves' that his or her claim is correct. Mark 'no' if there are more that two instances of misused terms or phrases in the essay or if there is are no scientific terms or rhetorical references used at all.*	No	Mostly	Yes
Writing Mechanics	3.1 *Organization:* The order and arrangement of the paragraphs and sentences enhances the development of the main idea. *Mark 'no' if the essay seems to 'jump around' or the paragraphs are in an inappropriate order, paragraphs are too short or long, or if ideas are introduced within a paragraph where they should not have been.*	No	Mostly	Yes
	3.2 *Word Choice:* The author uses the appropriate word at a given time (e.g., affect vs. effect, their vs. there, etc.).	No	Mostly	Yes
	3.3 *Voice:* The sentences are written in an active voice rather than a passive voice (e.g., the expert analyzed the data vs. the data was analyzed by the expert) and the author use a professional tone rather than a conversational one.	No	Mostly	Yes
	3.4 *Grammar:* The author used complete sentences, proper subject-verb agreement, and a constant tense throughout the essay.	No	Mostly	Yes
	3.5 *Conventions:* The author used appropriate spelling, punctuation, and capitalization. *Mark 'yes' if there are only 1 or 2 errors, mark 'mostly' if there are more than two errors, and mark ' no' if there are so many errors that the ideas in the essay were obscured or you were forced to stop and re-read a section of the essay.*	No	Mostly	Yes

Total Score: _____ /28