

Name:

Date:

Argumentative Writing Sample

Argument

Colonists were justified in their reasons for fighting in the American Revolution.

Claim 1

Great Britain imposed unfair taxes without colonial representation.

Claim 2

Colonists rights were violated by British policies.

Evidence 1

The Stamp Act of 1765 taxed paper goods, which made daily life more expensive. This law was passed without input from colonial legislatures.

Evidence 2

The Intolerable Acts punished colonists by closing Boston Harbor, replacing Massachusetts' elected officials with a British-appointed council, and allowing British troops to be housed on colonists property.

Evidence-Based Counterclaim 1

Great Britain needed money after the French and Indian War. Parliament said colonists were "virtually represented," and it had the right to tax them as stated in the Declaratory Act.

Evidence-Based Counterclaim 2

Great Britain was justified in the passing of the Intolerable Acts because colonists destroyed a ton of valuable goods during the Boston Tea Party as an act of defiance.

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Argumentative Writing Rubric

	Proficient 2 Points	Progressing 1 Point	Beginning 0 Points
Argument	The argument is clearly and accurately stated.	The argument lacks clarity or completeness.	The argument is unclear and incomplete.
Claims	The claims strongly support the argument.	One or more of the claims lack clarity or completeness.	The claims do not support the argument.
Evidence	The essay provides sufficient and relevant evidence that clearly supports the claim.	The essay provides some evidence; evidence is somewhat relevant and partially supports the claim.	The essay provides little or no evidence; evidence is not relevant or does not support the claim.
Counterclaim	The essay sufficiently presents two evidence-based counterclaims.	The essay sufficiently presents one evidence-based counterclaim.	The essay does not present any evidence-based counterclaims.
Overall Understanding	The essay shows a strong understanding of the topic with no significant misconceptions.	The essay shows a basic understanding of the topic; some misconceptions may be present.	The essay shows a limited understanding of the topic; major misconceptions may be present.
	Proficient The essay clearly and logically connects evidence to the claims and argument and establishes a well-developed chain of reasoning. 8–10 Points	Progressing The essay attempts to connect evidence to the claim and argument and establish a chain of reasoning. 5–7 Points	Beginning The essay provides minimal or unclear reasoning to connect evidence to the claim and argument. 0–4 Points