Argumentative Essay Checklist

Structure

\_\_\_ at least 4 paragraphs

introductory paragraph contains:

\_\_\_ a hook or addresses the topic’s issues

\_\_\_ background or current newsworthy events and/or assumptions

\_\_\_ thesis - what they are arguing or trying to convince us to believe

\_\_\_ at least two areas to be explored in body paragraphs

body paragraphs contain:

\_\_\_ a topic sentence and transition words to

connect it to previous paragraph

\_\_\_ evidence from texts in the form of facts, statistics, and expert

testimony that support your side of the argument

\_\_\_ a paragraph addressing and the opposite of the argument

\_\_\_ properly cited information from texts in the form of in-text

citations (author’s last name, page or paragraph number)

\_\_\_ quotations are embedded or integrated and do not stand alone

\_\_\_ transition words to connect ideas/sentences within the

paragraphs

concluding paragraph contains:

\_\_\_ key ideas from the essay (review topic sentences)

\_\_\_ thesis re-stated in different words

\_\_\_ further implications or future issues

\_\_\_ final impression or image left to the reader

Overall essay contains:

\_\_\_ insightful and interpretive understanding of texts which

demonstrates critical thinking

\_\_\_ sophisticated language (diction, word choice)

\_\_\_ correct spelling, grammar and punctuation

\_\_\_ no use of the first person (*I, you, we)* and no personal opinions