## Keystone Argumentative Scoring Guidelines

### Scoring Domain

#### Score Point 4
- At this score point, the writer—
  - establishes and sustains a precise claim or position
  - displays a clear understanding of task, purpose, and audience

#### Score Point 3
- At this score point, the writer—
  - establishes a claim or position
  - displays an understanding of task, purpose, and audience

#### Score Point 2
- At this score point, the writer—
  - provides an inconsistent claim or position
  - displays an inadequate understanding of task, purpose, and audience

#### Score Point 1
- At this score point, the writer—
  - provides vague or indistinct claim or position
  - displays a limited understanding of task, purpose, and audience

#### Score Point 0
- At this score point, the writer—
  - provides no evidence of claim or position
  - displays no understanding of task, purpose, and audience
  - does not respond to prompt

### Thesis/Focus

- chooses sophisticated organizational strategies appropriate for task, purpose, and audience
- presents fair and relevant evidence to support claim or position
- includes a clear and well-defined introduction, body, and conclusion that support or reinforce the argument

- chooses appropriate organizational strategies for task, purpose, and audience
- presents relevant evidence to support claim or position
- includes a clear introduction, body, and a conclusion that support the argument

- displays little evidence of organizational strategies
- presents insufficient evidence to support claim or position
- may not include an introduction, body, and conclusion

- provides no evidence of claim or position
- displays no understanding of task, purpose, and audience
- does not respond to prompt

### Organization

- provides relevant content and specific and effective supporting details that demonstrate a clear understanding of purpose
- uses sophisticated transitional words, phrases, and clauses to link ideas and create cohesion
- considers counterclaims (alternate or opposing arguments)

- provides relevant content and effective supporting details
- uses transitional words, phrases, and clauses to link ideas
- acknowledges counterclaims (alternate or opposing arguments)

- provides insufficient content and ineffective supporting details
- may use simplistic and/or illogical transitional expressions
- may not acknowledge counterclaims (alternate or opposing arguments)

- provides minimal content
- uses few or no transitional expressions to link ideas
- does not acknowledge counterclaims (alternate or opposing arguments)

- does not respond to prompt

### Content

- uses consistently precise language and a wide variety of sentence structures
- chooses an effective style and tone, and maintains a consistent point of view

- uses precise language and a variety of sentence structures
- chooses an appropriate style, tone, and point of view

- uses imprecise language and a limited variety of sentence structures
- may choose an inappropriate style or tone, and may shift point of view

- uses simplistic or repetitious language and limited sentence structures
- demonstrates little or no understanding of tone or point of view

- uses repetitious language and simple sentence structure
- demonstrates no understanding of style, tone, or point of view
- does not respond to prompt

### Style

- uses consistently precise language and a wide variety of sentence structures
- chooses an effective style and tone, and maintains a consistent point of view

- uses precise language and a variety of sentence structures
- chooses an appropriate style, tone, and point of view

- uses imprecise language and a limited variety of sentence structures
- may choose an inappropriate style or tone, and may shift point of view

- uses simplistic or repetitious language and limited sentence structures
- demonstrates little or no understanding of tone or point of view

- uses repetitious language and simple sentence structure
- demonstrates no understanding of style, tone, or point of view
- does not respond to prompt

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