

## KEYSTONE ARGUMENTATIVE SCORING GUIDELINES

| Scoring Domain      | Score Point 4<br>At this score point, the writer—   | Score Point 3<br>At this score point, the writer—   | Score Point 2<br>At this score point, the writer—   | Score Point 1<br>At this score point, the writer—  | Score Point 0<br>At this score point, the writer—   |
|---------------------|---|---|---|--|---|
| <b>Thesis/Focus</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>establishes and sustains a precise claim or position</li> <li>displays a clear understanding of task, purpose, and audience</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>establishes a claim or position</li> <li>displays an understanding of task, purpose, and audience</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>provides an inconsistent claim or position</li> <li>displays an inadequate understanding of task, purpose, and audience</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>provides vague or indistinct claim or position</li> <li>displays a limited understanding of task, purpose, and audience</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>provides no evidence of claim or position</li> <li>displays no understanding of task, purpose, and audience</li> <li>does not respond to prompt</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Organization</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>chooses sophisticated organizational strategies appropriate for task, purpose, and audience</li> <li>presents fair and relevant evidence to support claim or position</li> <li>includes a clear and well-defined introduction, body, and conclusion that support or reinforce the argument</li> </ul>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>chooses appropriate organizational strategies for task, purpose, and audience</li> <li>presents relevant evidence to support claim or position</li> <li>includes a clear introduction, body, and a conclusion that support the argument</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>displays little evidence of organizational strategies</li> <li>presents insufficient evidence to support claim or position</li> <li>may not include an introduction, body, and conclusion</li> </ul>                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>displays little to no evidence of organizational strategies</li> <li>presents little or no evidence to support claim or position</li> <li>may not include an identifiable introduction, body, and conclusion</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>displays no evidence of organizational strategies</li> <li>presents no evidence to support claim or position</li> <li>does not include an identifiable introduction, body, and conclusion</li> <li>does not respond to prompt</li> </ul> |
| <b>Content</b>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>provides relevant content and specific and effective supporting details that demonstrate a clear understanding of purpose</li> <li>uses sophisticated transitional words, phrases, and clauses to link ideas and create cohesion</li> <li>considers counterclaims (alternate or opposing arguments)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>provides relevant content and effective supporting details</li> <li>uses transitional words, phrases, and clauses to link ideas</li> <li>acknowledges counterclaims (alternate or opposing arguments)</li> </ul>                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>provides insufficient content and ineffective supporting details</li> <li>may use simplistic and/or illogical transitional expressions</li> <li>may not acknowledge counterclaims (alternate or opposing arguments)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>provides minimal content</li> <li>uses few or no transitional expressions to link ideas</li> <li>does not acknowledge counterclaims (alternate or opposing arguments)</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>provides little to no content</li> <li>does not use transitions to link ideas</li> <li>does not respond to prompt</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Style</b>        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>uses consistently precise language and a wide variety of sentence structures</li> <li>chooses an effective style and tone, and maintains a consistent point of view</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>uses precise language and a variety of sentence structures</li> <li>chooses an appropriate style, tone, and point of view</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>uses imprecise language and a limited variety of sentence structures</li> <li>may choose an inappropriate style or tone, and may shift point of view</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>uses simplistic or repetitious language and limited sentence structures</li> <li>demonstrates little or no understanding of tone or point of view</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>uses repetitious language and simple sentence structure</li> <li>demonstrates no understanding of style, tone, or point of view</li> <li>does not respond to prompt</li> </ul>   |