

Argumentative Essay Rubric: *Who is the Goat?*



Category	4 – Excellent	3 – Proficient	2 – Developing	1 – Needs Improvement
Paragraph 1: Introduction	Engaging hook effectively draws the reader in. Background clearly explains criteria of greatness. Thesis is clear and strongly states the argument.	Hook is present and somewhat engaging. Background provides adequate context. Thesis is clear.	Hook may be weak or unrelated. Background is vague. Thesis is unclear or basic.	No hook or background. Thesis is missing or confusing.
Paragraph 2: First Supporting Argument	Strong topic sentence introduces the main point. Specific and relevant statistics, wins, and records support the claim. Explanation shows clear connection to greatness.	Clear topic sentence and adequate evidence. Some explanation provided.	Weak topic sentence or limited evidence. Explanation is unclear or basic.	Missing topic sentence. Little or no evidence or explanation.
Paragraph 3: Second Supporting Argument	Topic sentence introduces a distinct, thoughtful point. Rich examples and details support argument. Explanation highlights uniqueness of driver’s skills.	Good topic sentence and examples. Explanation is present but may lack depth.	Topic sentence is unclear. Some examples given. Explanation is limited.	No clear topic sentence. Few or no examples. Lacks explanation.
Paragraph 4: Counterargument & Rebuttal	Clearly presents a reasonable opposing view. Respectful, fact-based rebuttal strongly supports the main argument.	Presents opposing view and includes a rebuttal with some supporting facts.	Opposing view is unclear or weak. Rebuttal lacks strong support.	No opposing view or rebuttal, or both are unclear or ineffective.
Paragraph 5: Conclusion	Thesis is restated in a fresh way. Key points are effectively summarized. Final thought leaves a strong, lasting impression.	Thesis is restated. Summary of points is present. Closing statement is adequate.	Restatement of thesis is weak. Summary is vague. Ending is abrupt or weak.	No clear thesis restatement. No summary or conclusion.
Organization & Coherence	Essay is well-organized with smooth transitions between paragraphs. Ideas flow logically.	Organization is mostly clear. Transitions may be basic but present.	Organization is inconsistent. Some ideas are out of order or confusing.	Disorganized structure. Lacks transitions. Ideas are hard to follow.
Use of Evidence & Data	Facts and stats are accurate, relevant, and well-integrated. Clear citation or attribution if required.	Evidence is mostly accurate and relevant. Integration is adequate.	Some evidence is inaccurate, vague, or poorly integrated.	Lacks relevant or accurate evidence. Facts are missing or unsupported.
Grammar & Mechanics	Writing is clear and free of grammar, punctuation, and spelling errors.	Minor errors present, but they don’t affect understanding.	Frequent errors that may interfere with clarity.	Many errors that seriously impact readability.