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| **Title**  | Argumentation Rubric—Middle School  |
| **Description**  | A rubric in student language used by middle school students to create an argument that meets high standards of quality.  |
| **Keywords**  | Communication, evidence, reasoning, claims, viewpoint, evidence, audience  |
| **Instructions**  | Assess your ability to form and defend your opinions using this rubric.  |
| **Selected terms** Critical Thinking | 6-8

|  | **4** | **3** | **2** | **1** |
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| Claim | I clearly state a claim that expresses a reasonable position on a topic. | I clearly state a claim that expresses a position. | With help, I state a claim that expresses a position. | I do not state a claim, and I confuse claims with other kinds of statements. |
| Evidence | I apply standards of quality to the evidence I use to support my claim. | I use evidence from good sources to support my claim. | I support my position with evidence, but some of my evidence may be irrelevant or come from unreliable sources. | I often use poor-quality evidence to support my claim. |
| Audience Awareness | I consider the characteristics of my audience when I form an argument, and I include information that is most likely to persuade my audience to agree with my claim. | I think about my audience when I organize my argument, and I address my audience’s concerns and needs. | I try to think about my audience when I form my argument, but I often fail to address my audience’s concerns or needs. | I do not think about my audience’s needs or concerns when I put together my argument. |
| Opposing Viewpoints | I predict what people who disagree with my position will say, and I address their points in my argument.  | I explain why positions I do not agree with are wrong.  | I sometimes do not address positions that disagree with my position in my argument. | I do not address positions that disagree with my position in my argument. |
| Communication | I clearly and thoroughly describe my claim and the evidence supporting it. | I organize my argument to be effective. | With help, I organize my argument, but it may be confusing and unclear. | My argument is confusing and does not persuade people to agree with my claim. |
| Citations | I cite sources correctly when I use information developed by others.  | I usually cite sources correctly. | Sometimes, I forget to I cite sources or cite them incorrectly.  | I do not cite sources, or I cite them incorrectly. |

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