

Scoring Key: Grade 8

Argumentative Performance Task

Focus Standards

Grade 8: W.8.5; L.8.1; L.8.2

2-Point Argumentative Performance Task Writing Rubric (Grades 6–11)

SCORE	2 POINTS	1 POINTS	0 POINTS	NS
CONVENTIONS	<p>The response demonstrates an adequate command of conventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">adequate use of correct sentence formation, punctuation, capitalization, grammar usage, and spelling	<p>The response demonstrates a partial command of conventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">limited use of correct sentence formation, punctuation, capitalization, grammar usage, and spelling	<p>The response demonstrates little or no command of conventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">infrequent use of correct sentence formation, punctuation, capitalization, grammar usage, and spelling	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Insufficient (includes copied text)In a language other than EnglishOff-topicOff-purpose

SAMPLE NUMBER	SCORE	SCORE JUSTIFICATION
Sample Grade 8 Con A	2	This response includes some errors in spelling such as “Pennys” and “diferent” as well as errors in sentence formation such as “But, it would also help them, by rounding, everything would be more simple.” However, the proportion of errors to the overall writing is low. Also, the student demonstrates the ability to use punctuation in a sophisticated way that helps create an effective writing style. For example, the student writes, “There are two different sides to this story . . . what do you think?” This sophistication along with the low proportion of errors to writing done well helps the response reach an adequate Conventions score of 2 overall.
Sample Grade 8 Con B	0	This student demonstrates little command of Conventions in this piece of writing. There are a variety of errors, including basic ones such as the lack of capitalization and incorrect use of punctuation, resulting in many run-on sentences such as “I think we should just we just stop producing pennies because it it was a waste of money for example in source #2 it says ‘estimated \$700 million in wages that businesses pay retail clerks to count pennies’ that’s Cleary is a lot of money just for counting pennies!” and “And the government is just losing money out of making pennies that is why I think the penny should stop being made.” There are also numerous grammatical errors (“we should just we just stop producing pennies because it it was a waste of money;” and “at some cases you might need the penny”), which impact the understanding and quality of the writing. Overall, the low proportion of writing done well to errors earns this response a score point of 0.
Sample Grade 8 Con C	1	This student scores a 1 for Conventions due to inconsistent use of correct sentence formation, punctuation, and spelling. For example, the student includes sentence fragments and syntax errors such as, “Whether we use them, donate them, or discard them into nearby fountains;” and “Time, most people come to relies even at a young age how valuable it is.” The student also misspells several words, such as “loosing,” “relies,” and “their for.” Finally, the student’s use of punctuation is inconsistent throughout the response. While the student does demonstrate adequate command of grammar usage and capitalization, the density of errors and the severity of errors make this response a 1 in Conventions.