# **SPEECH/ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY RUBRIC**

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| **CATEGORY** | **4 - Above Standards** | **3 - Meets Standards** | **2-Approaching Standards** | **1 - Below Standards** |
| **Focus or Thesis Statement** | The thesis statement names the topic of the essay and outlines the main points to be discussed. | The thesis statement names the topic of the essay. | The thesis statement outlines some or all of the main points to be discussed but does not name the topic. | The thesis statement does not name the topic AND does not preview what will be discussed. |
| **Support for Position** | Includes 3 or more pieces of evidence (facts, statistics, examples, real-life experiences) that support the position statement. The writer anticipates the reader's concerns, biases or arguments and has provided at least 1 counter-argument. | Includes 3 or more pieces of evidence (facts, statistics, examples, real-life experiences) that support the position statement. | Includes 2 pieces of evidence (facts, statistics, examples, real-life experiences) that support the position statement. | Includes 1 or fewer pieces of evidence (facts, statistics, examples, real-life experiences). |
| **Evidence and Examples** | All of the evidence and examples are specific, relevant and explanations are given that show how each piece of evidence supports the author's position. | Most of the evidence and examples are specific, relevant and explanations are given that show how each piece of evidence supports the author’s position. | At least one of the pieces of evidence and examples is relevant and has an explanation that shows how that piece of evidence supports the author's position. | Evidence and examples are NOT relevant AND/OR are not explained. |
| **Audience** | Demonstrates a clear understanding of the potential reader and uses appropriate vocabulary and arguments. Anticipates reader's questions and provides thorough answers appropriate for that audience. | Demonstrates a general understanding of the potential reader and uses vocabulary and arguments appropriate for that audience. | Demonstrates some understanding of the potential reader and uses arguments appropriate for that audience. | It is not clear whom the author is writing for. |
| **Closing paragraph** | The conclusion is strong and leaves the reader solidly understanding the writer’s position. Effective restatement of the position statement begins the closing paragraph. | The conclusion is recognizable. The author's position is restated within the first two sentences of the closing paragraph. | The author's position is restated within the closing paragraph, but not near the beginning. | There is no conclusion - the paper just ends. |
| **Comments**  TOTAL /20 |  |  |  |  |