Evidence-Based Arguments Checklist

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| **Name:** |  | **Class:** |  | **Date:** |  |

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| **Directions:** Evaluate Evidence-Based Arguments by examining the components designated on the checklist. Identify whether or not the argument contains the appropriate section components and make a check mark if the component is present. Provide your evidence and the location where the component appears in the “Comments” section. |

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| --- | --- |
| **Text:** |  |

| **Argument sections** | **Section components** | **☐** | **Comments** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Content and Analysis** | **Clarity and relevance:** Purposefully states a central claim that is linked to a clearly identified context (topic, problem, issue) that establishes its relevance | ☐ |  |
| **Conformity to sources:** Presents a perspective that arises from ideas and evidence found in a range of diverse, credible, and significant sources | ☐ |  |
| **Understanding of the issue:** Presents a perspective based on a comprehensive understanding of the issue, and establishes a series of valid claims that emerge from reasoned analysis | ☐ |  |
| **Acknowledgement of other perspectives:** Recognizes opposing or alternate claims and distinguishes these claims from the stated perspective | ☐ |  |
| **Command of Evidence** | **Reasoning:** Links evidence and claims together logically in ways that lead to the conclusions expressed in the central claim | ☐ |  |
| **Use of evidence:** Supports the central claim and each supporting claim with valid inferences based on credible evidence | ☐ |  |
| **Thoroughness and objectivity:** Represents a comprehensive understanding of the issue where the argument’s claims and supporting evidence fairly addresses relevant counterclaims and discusses conflicting evidence | ☐ |  |
| **Coherence and Organization** | **Relationship among parts:** Establishes clear and logical relationships between supporting claims and a central claim | ☐ |  |
| **Effectiveness of structure:** Adopts an organizational strategy, including an introduction and conclusion, which clearly and effectively communicates the argument | ☐ |  |
| **Control of Language and Conventions** | **Clarity of communication:** Is communicated clearly and coherently; the writer’s opinions are clearly distinguished from objective summaries and statements | ☐ |  |
| **Word choice/vocabulary:** Uses domain-specific terminology appropriately and precisely | ☐ |  |
| **Style/voice:** Maintains a formal and objective tone appropriate to the intended audience; the use of words, phrases, clauses, and varied syntax draws attention to key ideas and reinforces relationships among ideas | ☐ |  |
| **Responsible use of evidence:** Cites evidence in a responsible manner that anticipates the audience’s knowledge level, concerns, values, and possible biases; quotes sufficient evidence exactly, or paraphrases accurately, referencing precisely where the evidence can be found | ☐ |  |
| **Conventions of writing:** Illustrates consistent command of standard, grade level–appropriate writing conventions | ☐ |  |

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