

Rubric for Writing a Scientific Argument

weaker <-----> stronger

	1	2	3	4	5
ORGANIZATION Are all aspects of a scientific argument included?	Does not state a claim or claim does not address the question being considered.	States a claim that responds to the question but no additional information is included as evidence to support the claim.	States a claim and lists or describes information as evidence but does not connect evidence to different parts of the claim.	States a claim and connects evidence with different parts of the claim but ideas are not clearly organized to help reader follow the overall argument.	States a claim, connects evidence with different parts of the claim, and ideas are clearly organized to help reader follow the overall argument.
CONNECTIONS Are the ideas well connected?	No evidence is included.	Includes evidence but does not indicate how evidence connects to other evidence or to parts of the claim.	Clearly states some connections between evidence and the claim.	Clearly states most connections between evidence and the claim.	Each part of the claim is supported by evidence, and connections between all evidence and the claim are clearly stated.
ACCURACY Are the ideas scientifically accurate?	Claim is an inaccurate answer, or ideas and conclusions (stated or suggested) are inaccurate.	Claim is an accurate but partial answer. The ideas are accurate, but one or more is used inaccurately to support the claim.	Claim is an accurate but partial answer to the question. Each idea is accurate, but at least one is used in a way that is not scientifically relevant.	Claim is an accurate but partial answer to the question. All ideas that are stated and used to support the claim are scientifically sound.	Claim is an accurate and thorough answer to the question. All ideas that are stated and used to support the claim are scientifically sound.