

STATE ASSESSMENT RUBRICS

NJSLA-A Grades 6-8 Argumentative Rubric

Grades 6-8 15 points total 3 criteria NJ State assessment rubrics

The NJ NJSLA-A Grades 6-8 Argumentative Rubric scored out of 15 points across 3 criteria, for argumentative writing at grades 6-8.

SOURCE AND ATTRIBUTION

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<https://nj.portal.cambiumast.com/content/contentresources/en/Writing%20Rubrics%20for%20the%20NJSLA-A%20and%20the%20NJGPA-A.pdf>

How it is scored

CRITERION	POINTS	LEVELS
Ideas and Focus	5	5
Organization	5	5
Expression and Word Choice	5	5
Total	15	

The full rubric

Ideas and Focus · 5 points

SCORE	WHAT EARNS IT
5 pts	Focused response, clear understanding of task and purpose. Characteristics: a claim that clearly introduces a topic or issue; relevant and accurate data and evidence that clearly support the claim; logical reasoning that clearly demonstrates understanding of the topic or text; (G7 only) clearly acknowledges an alternate or opposing claim; (G8 only) clearly acknowledges and distinguishes an alternate or opposing claim.
4 pts	Mostly focused response, general understanding of task and purpose. Characteristics: a claim that generally introduces a topic or issue; accurate data and evidence that generally support the claim; logical reasoning that generally demonstrates understanding of the topic or text; (G7 only) generally acknowledges an alternate or opposing claim; (G8 only) generally acknowledges and distinguishes an alternate or opposing claim.
3 pts	Basic response, some understanding of task and purpose. Characteristics: a claim that somewhat introduces a topic or issue; data and evidence that somewhat support the claim (information may be general); reasoning that somewhat demonstrates understanding of the topic or text; (G7 only) somewhat acknowledges an alternate or opposing claim; (G8 only) somewhat acknowledges or distinguishes an alternate or opposing claim.

SCORE	WHAT EARNS IT
2 pts	Limited response, partial understanding of task and purpose. Characteristics: a claim that attempts to introduce a topic or issue; limited evidence related to the claim (information may be general); limited or attempted reasoning related to the topic or text; (G7 and G8 only) attempts to acknowledge an alternate or opposing claim.
1 pt	Minimally written response, minimal understanding of task and purpose. Characteristics: a minimal, missing, or unclear claim; minimal, missing, or unclear supporting evidence; minimal, missing, or unclear demonstration of reasoning; (G7 and G8 only) minimal, missing, or unclear acknowledgement of an alternate or opposing claim.

Organization · 5 points

SCORE	WHAT EARNS IT
5 pts	Focused response. Characteristics: a clear introduction that contains clear reasons and relevant evidence to support a claim; a clear organizational structure that presents reasons and evidence logically; a concluding statement or section that clearly follows from the argument presented; (G7 and G8) a conclusion that also clearly supports the argument presented.
4 pts	Mostly focused response. Characteristics: a general introduction that contains reasons and relevant evidence to support a claim; an organizational structure that generally presents reasons and evidence logically; a concluding statement or section that generally follows from the argument presented; (G7 and G8) a conclusion that also generally supports the argument presented.
3 pts	Basic response. Characteristics: a basic introduction that contains some reasoning and evidence to support a claim; a basic organizational structure that somewhat presents reasons or evidence; a concluding statement or section that somewhat follows from the argument presented; (G7 and G8) a conclusion that also somewhat supports the argument presented.
2 pts	Limited response. Characteristics: a limited or attempted introduction to support a claim; a limited or attempted organizational structure that attempts to present reasons or evidence; a concluding statement or section that attempts to relate to the argument presented.
1 pt	Minimally written response. Characteristics: a missing or unclear introduction; a minimal or unclear organizational structure; a missing or unclear concluding statement or section.

Expression and Word Choice · 5 points

SCORE	WHAT EARNS IT
5 pts	Focused response. Characteristics: (G6 only) words, phrases, and clauses that clearly link and clarify relationships among claim(s), reasons, and evidence; (G7 only) clearly create cohesion and clarify relationships among claim(s), reasons, and evidence; (G8 only) clearly create cohesion and clarify relationships among claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence; establishes and maintains a formal/academic style, approach, and form.
4 pts	Mostly focused response. Characteristics: (G6 only) words, phrases, and clauses that generally link and clarify relationships among claim(s), reasons, and evidence; (G7 only) generally create cohesion and clarify relationships among claim(s), reasons, and evidence; (G8 only) generally create cohesion and clarify relationships among claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence; generally establishes and maintains a formal/academic style, approach, and form.
3 pts	Basic response. Characteristics: (G6 only) words, phrases, and clauses that somewhat link or clarify relationships among claim(s), reasons, or evidence; (G7 only) somewhat create cohesion or clarify relationships among claim(s), reasons, or evidence; (G8 only) somewhat create cohesion or clarify relationships among claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, or evidence; somewhat establishes a formal/academic style, approach, or form.
2 pts	Limited response. Characteristics: (G6 only) words, phrases, or clauses that attempt to link claim(s), reasons, or evidence; (G7 and G8 only) words, phrases, or clauses that attempt to relate claim(s), reasons, or evidence; attempts a formal/academic style, approach, or form.

SCORE	WHAT EARNS IT
1 pt	Minimally written response. Characteristics: minimal or unclear use of words, phrases, or clauses to link claim(s) or reasons; minimal or missing formal/academic style, approach, or form.

Scoring record

Student	Assignment	Date
CRITERION	SCORE	COMMENTS
Ideas and Focus	/ 5	
Organization	/ 5	
Expression and Word Choice	/ 5	
Total	/ 15	

Free to print and share. The readable version, and a grader that scores an essay against this rubric, are at nudgelearn.app/rubrics/njsla-a-g6-8-argumentative