**AP Argument Essay – Prompt & Scoring Comments Sheet**

**Prompt**: Having read and evaluated several arguments, you should understand the structure and rhetorical techniques utilized by the greatest minds of the Revolutionary Era. These patriotic men wrote to defend the reputation of their homeland and to support the struggle of America as that young nation sought to define itself outside of English and European rule and governance.

As a young person attempting to define yourself at LRHS, it is likely that you have some grievance or problem you wish to have addressed. Perhaps you have noticed an unjust circumstance that has not been confronted. What is that circumstance? Are there certain rules or laws that unreasonably limit your freedom? Are there problems or injustices taking place around you that desperately need to be addressed?

After considering this prompt, it will be your responsibility to create an argument, using what you know about argumentative techniques, and address the issue that has caught your attention. Your essay should use MLA style and should not exceed three typed, double-spaced pages.

* **The essay provides an exposition that concisely introduces the problem from every angle.** The opening paragraph should achieve each of the following: establish a premise for your argument, provide the reader with context to consider the problem, present a concise indication of who or what the opposition is, and conclude with a concise presentation of your argument as a thesis statement. (20 points)

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| 9-8 Superb  **20-19** points | 7-6 Excellent to Good  **18-17** points | 5 Good to Adequate  **16- 15** points | 4-3 Weak to Poor  **14-13** points | 2-1 Poor to Significantly Flawed  **12** or fewer points |

* **The essay provides a carefully phrased and thoroughly developed explanation of your argument.** The essay should provide sufficient explanation of your points as you respond to the claims made by the opposition. No point mentioned in your discussion of the opposition’s argument should remain without a response from you. (20 points)

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* **The essay utilizes rhetorical devices *effectively* and should be free of fallacies**. Devices, similar to the ones used by Jefferson, Henry, or Paine, should amplify your logical explanation and should subtly coerce your reader to see the issue from your perspective. (20 points)

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* **The essay provides a clear and thoroughly developed explanation of the opposition’s argument.** The essay should provide sufficient explanation of the opposition’s point of view relative to the issue you have selected; moreover, you should anticipate the opposition’s objections to your argument and address those objections. (20 points)

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* **The essay provides a compelling conclusion that offers a realistic solution to the problem as you see it.** The conclusion should not be a restatement of the argument. It should offer the reader a compelling rationale to alter his or her perception of the issue you have addressed. (20 points)

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* **The essay has been carefully proofread and has been carefully edited.** Editing and proofreading errors will result in deduction from your final grade.

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| **-0** | **-2** | **-4** | **-6** | **-8** | **-10** |
| Virtually Error Free | Minor Typos and/or Spelling Errors | Infrequent Errors Usage | Frequent Errors Usage, Some Major Errors | Frequent Usage & Major Errors in Sentence Formation | Frequent Major Errors, Distracting |

**Comments SCORE**

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