**ARGUMENT RUBRIC Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

The scoring guidelines below were taken from the College Board and the AP English Language and Composition sample scoring guidelines for the synthesis essay. The language was adapted to align with the Common Core writing content standards for argument; these content standards underpin each of the scoring categories. You will not be required to use parenthetical citations in the letter; however, you must use text evidence.

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| **ACCOMPLISHED** |  **A+ 48-50 A 47 A- 45-46** |
| Argumentative letters designated **Accomplished** meet the criteria for argumentative writing that are considered effective, sophisticated in their argument and synthesis of sources, and impressive in their control of language. |

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| **EFFECTIVE** |  **B+ 44 B 42-43 B- 40-41** |
| Argumentative letters designated **Effective** successfully take a position that defends a claim that fulfills the assignment requirements, supports a position by effectively synthesizing and using pieces of evidence. The writer’s argument is convincing, and the evidence effectively supports the writer’s position. In addition, the argument effectively identifies a counterclaim, acknowledging it and effectively refuting the counterclaim, disproving it with reasons and connections to real life. The prose demonstrates an ability to control a wide range of the elements of effective writing but is not flawless.  |

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| **DEVELOPING** |  **C+ 38-39 C 37 C- 35-36** |
| Argument letters designated **Developing** take a position that defends a claim that fulfills the assignment requirements, support their position by synthesizing, use two pieces of evidence, but their arguments and their use of evidence are somewhat limited, inconsistent, or uneven. The writer’s argument is generally clear, and the evidence generally supports the writer’s position, but the links between the sources and the argument may be strained. They identify a counterclaim, but show no attempt to disprove it with reasons and connections to real life. The writing contains lapses in diction or syntax, undermining the clarity of the writer’s ideas. |

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| **INSUFFICIENT** |  **D+ 34-35 D 32-33 D- 30-31** |
| Argumentative letters designated **Insufficient** take a position that defends a claim that fulfills the assignment requirements, attempt to present an argument and support their position by synthesizing and citing at least two pieces of evidence but may misunderstand, misrepresent, or oversimplify either their own argument or the cited sources they include. The link between the argument and the cited evidence is weak. There is no evidence of a counterclaim. The prose may suggest immature control of writing.  |
| **INCOMPLETE** | **F 29 or below** |
| Argumentative letter designated **Incomplete** demonstrate little success in taking a position that defends the claim that fulfills the assignment guidelines. They may merely allude to knowledge gained from reading the novel rather than citing specific evidence. These essays may misread the novel, fail to present an argument, or substitute a simpler task by merely responding to the question vaguely or by summarizing the novel. The prose of essays scored an **Incomplete** often demonstrates consistent weaknesses in writing, such as a lack of development or organization, grammatical problems, or a lack of control. An **Incomplete** may also be assigned to a student who does not submit the assigned essay. |

**Block Letter Structure Requirements**

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| **D or Below (0-6.5)** | **C (7-7.5)** | **B (8-8.5)** |  **A (9-10)** |
| Shows little success with adhering to the block letter format. | Neglects one major requirement of the block letter or two minor requirements. | Fulfills all but one minor requirement of the block letter format. | Fulfills all requirements of the block letter format with no errors. |

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/50 argumentative requirements**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/10 pts block letter requirements**

"AP® ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION SAMPLE SCORING GUIDELINES FOR THE SYNTHESIS ESSAY." *ap.collegeboard.com*. College Board, 2006. Web. 22 Mar. 2015. <http://apcentral.collegeboard.com>.