

Name: _____

Topic: _____

Date: _____

Science Persuasive Essay Rubric
Developed by Northfield High School (12/2007)

Criteria	Exemplary (13)	Proficient (11)	Emerging (9)	Beginning (7)
<u>Identification of Societal Issue & Position Taken</u>	Proficient + introductory paragraph is original and eloquent	Includes 3 of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • includes a hook • identifies an appropriate issue • thesis (position taken) 	Includes 2 of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • includes a hook • identifies an appropriate issue • thesis (position taken) 	Includes 1 of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • includes a hook • identifies an appropriate issue • thesis (position taken)
<u>Significant First Reason for Position</u>	Proficient + elaboration: specific data OR credible reference to specific scientific name/ organization	Includes 3 of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identifies first reason for position (topic sentence) • includes evidence to support reason • explains how the evidence supports the reason 	Includes 2 of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identifies first reason for position (topic sentence) • includes evidence to support reason • explains how the evidence supports the reason 	Includes 1 of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identifies first reason for position (topic sentence) • includes evidence to support reason • explains how the evidence supports the reason
<u>Significant Second Reason for Position</u>	Proficient + elaboration: specific data OR credible reference to specific scientific name/ organization	Includes 3 of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identifies second reason for position (topic sentence) • includes evidence to support reason • explains how the evidence supports the reason 	Includes 2 of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identifies second reason for position (topic sentence) • includes evidence to support reason • explains how the evidence supports the reason 	Includes 1 of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identifies second reason for position (topic sentence) • includes evidence to support reason • explains how the evidence supports the reason
<u>Significant Third Reason for Position</u>	Proficient + elaboration: specific data OR credible reference to specific scientific name/ organization	Includes 3 of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identifies third reason for position (topic sentence) • includes evidence to support reason • explains how the evidence supports the reason 	Includes 2 of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identifies third reason for position (topic sentence) • includes evidence to support reason • explains how the evidence supports the reason 	Includes 1 of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identifies third reason for position (topic sentence) • includes evidence to support reason • explains how the evidence supports the reason
<u>Significant Counterargument</u>	Proficient + arguments are always one step ahead of the reader	Includes 3 of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • describes one statement against position taken • includes evidence to refute the counterargument (rebuttal) • explains how the evidence supports the rebuttal 	Includes 2 of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • describes one statement against position taken • includes evidence to refute the counterargument (rebuttal) • explains how the evidence supports the rebuttal 	Includes 1 of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • describes one statement against position taken • includes evidence to refute the counterargument (rebuttal) • explains how the evidence supports the rebuttal

	Exemplary (13)	Proficient (11)	Emerging (9)	Beginning (7)
<u>Conclusion</u>	Proficient + conclusion is original – does not follow “basic formula”	Includes 3 of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • summarizes position (thesis) • summarizes ALL reasons • includes a final concluding statement 	Includes 2 of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • summarizes position (thesis) • summarizes ALL reasons • includes a final concluding statement 	Includes 1 of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • summarizes position (thesis) • summarizes ALL reasons • includes a final concluding statement
<u>Result of Persuasive Essay</u>	Proficient + paper is exceptional – demonstrates a “flair for persuasion”	Includes 3 of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • argument is persuasive • paper is engaging • reasons are appropriate to audience 	Includes 2 of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • argument is persuasive • paper is engaging • reasons are appropriate to audience 	Includes 1 of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • argument is persuasive • paper is engaging • reasons are appropriate to audience

	Exemplary (5)	Proficient (4)	Emerging (3)	Beginning (1)
<u>Transitions Between Paragraphs</u>	Skillful use of transitions between paragraphs are evident	Effective use of transitions (words and phrases) between paragraphs are evident	Most of the paragraphs have effective use of transitions	Few or no transitions are made between paragraphs
<u>Spelling</u>	There are no spelling errors identified	There are no more than 1 -2 spelling errors identified.	There are more than 2 spelling errors.	Spelling errors detract from the readability of the essay
<u>Grammar</u>	There are no grammatical errors identified	There are no more than 1 - 2 grammatical errors identified.	There are more than 2 grammatical errors identified.	Grammatical errors detract from the readability of the essay
<u>Points</u>	106	89	72	52