Argumentation Essay Peer Review

Reviewer’s Name: _______________________

Author’s Name: _________________________

Directions: As well as looking for common issues in your peer’s essay (e.g., an effective opening hook, a clear and effective thesis, clear topic sentences in each body paragraph, proper spelling, grammar, and format, etc.), answer the questions below to identify whether the writing meets each of the Intellectual Standards.

Clarity & Precision
1) Are there any aspects of the author’s argument that could use further explanation or elaboration? Would any claims benefit from more specific examples? If so, please indicate where on the essay and/or provide examples.

Accuracy, Logic, & Depth
2) Do any of the writer’s claims sound untrue or debatable? Do any of the arguments in the essay need evidence or resources to make them stronger? Remember to be specific.

3) Has the writer recognized the true complexity of his/her topic and argument? In other words, make sure that the author hasn’t oversimplified any aspects of the issue at hand. If you feel he or she has oversimplified or overlooked important issues, please identify where and how.

Relevance & Significance
4) Does the author explain the importance and/or impact of this issue on the reader? In other words, does the writer help us to care about his/her topic? If not, provide suggestions of how the writer could do this.

5) Are all of the author’s points directly related to his/her argument? Are any claims or arguments irrelevant or off-topic? If so, indicate which ideas should be removed or more strongly connected to the overall argument.

Breadth & Fairness
6) Has the writer recognized any possible opposing viewpoints and properly refuted those arguments? Is there another way of looking at the topic that the author has not yet addressed? As always, please be specific.

7) Is the author’s attitude toward the topic balanced and fair? Are there any instances where he or she displays an unfair bias? Is the writer’s tone ever inappropriate or offensive about the topic itself or his/her opponents? Again, identify specific instances in the essay for the writer.