***Norton Field Guide* “Arguing a Position” (Chap. 13) Rubric**

**A Clear and Arguable Position (worth 15 points or 15 %)**

A+ (100) The issue is clearly controversial and clearly arguable (not based on belief, faith, or personal taste).

A (90) The issue is controversial and arguable.

B (80) The issue is controversial and mostly avoids conclusions based on belief, faith, or personal taste.

C (70) The issue is controversial, yet at times the conclusions are based on belief, faith, or personal taste.

D (60)The issue is controversial, yet most all of the conclusions are based on belief, faith, or personal taste.

F (50) The issue is not arguable, and the conclusions are based solely on belief, faith, or personal taste.

F- (25) The issue is not entirely clear, and the conclusions seem entirely based on faith or personal opinion.

**Convincing Evidence (worth 20 Points or 20%)**

A+ (100) The position is supported by an exemplary level of well-documented and unbiased facts.

A (90) The position is supported by an adequate level of well-documented and unbiased facts.

B (80) The position is mostly supported by an adequate level of well-documented and unbiased facts.

C (70) The position is sometimes supported by an adequate level of well-documented and unbiased facts.

D (60) The position is often not supported by well-documented and unbiased facts.

F (50) The position is mostly unsupported by well-documented and unbiased facts.

F- (25) The position is almost entirely lacking support by well-documented and unbiased facts.

**Careful Consideration of Other Positions (worth 15 Points or 15%)**

A+ (100) The essay anticipates the best opposing viewpoints and offers well-reasoned responses.

A (90) The essay anticipates opposing viewpoints and offers reasonable responses.

B (80) The essay anticipates some opposing viewpoints and offers reasonable responses.

C (70) The essay anticipates a few opposing viewpoints and attempts to respond.

D (60) The essay only indirectly refers to opposing viewpoints and usually fails to respond.

F (50) The writer seems unaware of most opposing viewpoints.

F- (25) The writer is oblivious to any opposing viewpoints.

**Organization (worth 10 Points or 10%)**

A+ (100) The organization enhances the reader’s understanding of the position.

A (90) The organization is effective and easy to follow.

B (80) The organization is adequate for the writer’s purpose.

C (70) The organization is adequate though it may sometimes lack adequate cues and transitions.

D (60) The organization is difficult to follow because it usually lacks clear cues and transitions.

F (50) The organization is inadequate and often confuses the reader.

F- (25) The organization is practically non-existent and consistently confuses the reader.

**An Effective Writing Style (worth 15 Points or 15%)**

A+ (100) The writing is efficient and pleasurable to read.

A (90) The writing avoids wordiness and awkwardness, and it is clear and easy to read.

B (80) The writing usually avoids wordiness and is usually clear.

C (70) The writing is often wordy, awkward, choppy, or unclear.

D (60) The writing is wordy, awkward, choppy, or often unclear.

F (50) The writing is choppy, inefficient, and often unclear.

F- (25) The writing style is distracting and unclear.

**Standard Grammar and Mechanics (worth 25 Points or 25%)**

A+ (100) The essay effortlessly employs standard grammar, mechanics, and documentation.

A (90) The essay is almost entirely free of errors in grammar, mechanics, and documentation.

B (80) The essay usually employs standard grammar, mechanics, and documentation.

C (70) The essay contains several errors in grammar, mechanics, and documentation.

D (60) Errors in grammar, mechanics, or documentation inhibit the reader’s understanding.

F (50) Errors in grammar, mechanics, or documentation obscure the meaning of the essay.

F- (25) Errors in grammar, mechanics, or documentation make the essay nearly impossible to read.