**Argument Paragraph Rubric – Prove Your Point**

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| **Element** | **Advanced** | **On-Target** | **Novice** |
| **Content** | The paragraph:* Creates a unified and persuasive argument; every sentence supports the key claim.
* Contains a topic sentence with a debatable claim and summary of the evidence.
* Employs multiple evidence types, including a secondary source.
* All sources are credible and properly cited.
* Includes commentary that intricately and complexly explains how the evidence proves the claim.
 | The paragraph:* Creates a fairly unified and persuasive argument; almost all sentences support the key claim.
* Contains a topic sentence with a debatable claim and summary of the evidence.
* Employs a variety of evidence types, including a secondary source.
* Most sources are credible and properly cited.
* Includes commentary that explains how the evidence proves the claim.
 | The paragraph:* Struggles to create a unified and persuasive argument; multiple sentences do not directly support the key claim.
* Contains a topic sentence with either a debatable claim or summary of the evidence, but not both.
* Employs only one evidence type.
* Sources are not credible; citations are missing or incorrect.
* Commentary missing or does not fully explain how the evidence proves the claim.
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| **Organization** | The paragraph:* Shifts seamlessly back and forth between evidence and commentary.
 | The paragraph:* Logically flows between evidence and commentary.
 | The paragraph:* Struggles to organize evidence and commentary in a logical manner.
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| **Style & Mechanics** | The paragraph:* Contains no fragments or run-ons; engages complex sentence structures.
* Consistently maintains a formal voice.
* Readily employs diction specific to the chosen topic.
 | The paragraph:* Contains minimal fragments or run-ons.
* Maintains a formal voice throughout with only occasional lapses.
* Employs diction specific to the chosen topic.
 | The paragraph:* Contains multiple fragments or run-ons.
* Is written in an informal voice.
* Occasionally employs diction specific to the chosen topic.
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| **Process Checklist** | The writer:* Pre-wrote to discover ideas for a debatable claim.
* Drafted to organize and analyze evidence and devise commentary.
* Revised his/her draft to achieve greater coherency and clarity.
* Edited for sentence-level clarity and an error-free essay.
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