

Student Name:
Course: ENG 1304: Rogerian Argument: Reporting on Past Research
Instructor: Adam McCune

Common Areas for Improvement
(only marked items apply to this paper)

Ideal Paper
(maximum credit)

Maximum credit **Earned credit**

Claim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The two positions are not parallel to each other (about the same specific issue, approached in the same way). - The two positions do not disagree with each other, or it is not clear how they disagree. - Your claim is not parallel to the two positions. - There is no single thesis that brings together all the ideas in the paper. - Your thesis is not really argumentative, because there doesn't seem to be an opposing view (a way someone could plausibly disagree with you). - You seem to be arguing for two contradictory ideas which you have not reconciled. 	<p>Your claim is about two opposed positions on a single issue (debate about the interpretation of a literary work). You claim that one position would benefit by adopting elements of the other position. (This may or may not involve formulating a third compromise position.)</p> <p>Your claim is clear, focused (specific enough to be well covered in your argument), appropriately complex (the result of analysis, not merely easily-found factual material), and arguable (someone might plausibly disagree, whether because of a different perspective or lack of information).</p>	3	
Rogerian Argument & Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One or more positions or arguments are not clearly defined, or are not adequately explained. - Some parts of the argument are not explicitly connected to the main thesis. - The paper needs more connections between its parts; it is too close to a disconnected series of separate comments and thoughts. - The paper includes unnecessary material that is not directly related to the argument. - Your essay separates related ideas, such as two pieces of evidence for the same point you are making to support your point. - Some parts of the argument seem to contradict other parts of the argument. 	<p>You provide enough background to make the issue understandable to someone who does not study it.</p> <p>You show that you understand two opposed positions on a single issue, by restating/summarizing the arguments each side makes.</p> <p>You describe the common ground the two sides share.</p> <p>You describe the root of the disagreement and valid points given by both sides. You show in which contexts and under what conditions each side's points are valid.</p> <p>You show how the two positions complement each other and that each supplies what the other lacks: how each position would benefit by adopting elements of the other position. You tell the reader how to reconcile the two sources.</p> <p>Thesis/claim serves as the organizing principle and focus of the entire essay. The stated point of each section is explicitly connected to the main claim, and explains directly what the section is about.</p>	3	
Support / Evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some of your points require more evidence. - Some of your evidence does not support your specific point, but only supports a related idea. - You sometimes rely too much on generalizations about a source, rather than pointing to specific details or quotations from it. - You sometimes need further analysis of your quotations and citations, in order to fully explain how your evidence proves your point. - You fail to provide citations for information which is outside of the essay, is not common knowledge, and is not clearly identified as your firsthand experience. (That is, you should cite all secondary sources.) - You cite outside sources which are questionably reliable and/or not appropriate as sources for academic writing on this topic (such as a blog by a non-expert). 	<p>You show that you have correctly represented each position on the issue, and its supporting arguments, using summarized ideas and/or quotes from your sources.</p> <p>You provide adequate support for each of your examples of contexts and conditions where each position is valid. Support may include common knowledge and what is clearly described as your personal experience. All other support must be accompanied by citation of appropriate, reliable sources (including the two main sources).</p>	3	
Sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One (or both) sources is not a truly scholarly source (although it may be reliable). - The sources do not really disagree (perhaps because they are not addressing the same specific issue), or you have not adequately shown that they disagree. 	<p>Paper focuses on two (or more) scholarly sources that disagree with each other.</p>	3	
Length, Format & Style	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Paper is less than the required length. - Sentence-level errors (such as incorrect sentence structure, incorrect word usage, incorrect spelling, typos, need for proofreading) - Incorrect formatting - Incorrect or missing citations - Need for smooth, clear transitions from one idea to the next - Problems of style (should be more precise, more formal, etc.) 	<p>Paper is the correct length. Use of language is concise, efficient, and precise. Quoting, paraphrasing, and MLA style are executed correctly. Paper is mechanically neat and tidy (grammar, punctuation, spelling, formatting).</p>	3	

TOTAL

15