

M-Step Argument	MY Access! Argument
<p><b>Organization and Purpose</b></p> <p>The response has a <b>clear and effective organizational structure</b>, creating a sense of unity and completeness. The organization is fully sustained between and within paragraphs. The response is consistently and <b>purposefully focused</b>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>claim is introduced, clearly communicated, and the focus is strongly maintained</b> for the purpose and audience</li> <li>• <b>consistent use of a variety of transitional strategies</b> to clarify the relationships between and among ideas <b>effective introduction and conclusion</b></li> <li>• <b>logical progression of ideas</b> from beginning to end; strong connections between and among ideas with some syntactic variety</li> <li>• alternate and <b>opposing argument(s) are clearly acknowledged or addressed*</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Evidence and Elaboration</b></p> <p>The response provides thorough <b>elaboration of the support/evidence</b> for the thesis/controlling idea that includes the <b>effective use of source material</b>. The response clearly and effectively develops ideas, using precise language:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• comprehensive <b>evidence (facts and details) from the source material is integrated, relevant, and specific</b></li> <li>• <b>clear citations</b> or attribution to source material</li> <li>• effective use of a <b>variety of elaborative techniques*</b></li> <li>• <b>vocabulary is clearly appropriate</b> for the audience and purpose</li> <li>• <b>effective, appropriate style</b> enhances content</li> </ul>	<p><b>Focus and Purpose/Organization</b></p> <p>The extent to which the response establishes and <b>maintains a position/claim</b> and a clear understanding of <b>purpose and audience and completes all parts of the task</b>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrates a thorough and <b>insightful understanding of the task, purpose and audience</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Establishes and maintains a precise claim to argue the issue presented in the task</b>.</li> <li>• Completes all parts of the task and may go beyond the limits of the task.</li> <li>• Very effectively demonstrates a <b>cohesive and unified structure</b> that supports the argument with an <b>engaging introduction and a strong conclusion</b>.</li> <li>• Uses effective and <b>skillful paragraphing and transitional strategies</b> throughout.</li> </ul> <p><b>Content Development/Elaboration/Language</b></p> <p>The extent to which the response provides <b>credible support for the claim(s) and argument(s) using valid reasoning and relevant text-based evidence*</b> (i.e., <b>facts, data/statistics, authoritative quotes, rhetorical questioning, anecdotes</b>).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very effectively develops arguments with <b>logical reasoning and effectively integrates relevant, text-based evidence to support the writers claim</b></li> <li>• <b>Uses a variety of elaborative techniques</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Convincingly addresses opposing claims or counterarguments</b></li> <li>• Demonstrates a very effectively style, <b>precise control of language, domain-specific word choice, and a well-defined sense of audience</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Uses well-structured and varied sentences</b>.</li> </ul>

## M-Step Argument (Grades 6-8) and MY Access!® Rubric Alignment

<b>Conventions</b>	<b>Mechanics and Conventions</b>
<p>The response demonstrates an adequate command of conventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>adequate use of correct sentence formation, <b>punctuation, capitalization, grammar usage, and spelling</b></li></ul>	<p>The extent to which the response demonstrates control of mechanics and conventions, including grammar, punctuation, and spelling.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Contains few or no errors in grammar, mechanics, punctuation and spelling.</b></li></ul>