**Developing an Argument – CERCA rubric**

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| **Grading Criteria** | **Mastery** | **Proficient** | **Developing** | **Beginning** |
| **Claim/Counter Claim** | **\* The writer introduces clear, supportable claims about the topic.** | **\*The writer mentions specific claims but does not make perfectly clear what personal argument is.** | **\*The writer mentions ideas but never makes clear, stated claims.** | **\*The opening of the writing has no noticeable claim.** |
| **Evidence** | **\*Writer provides thought out, relevant evidence from strong, credible sources.** | **\*Writer provides evidence that helps develop claim but some of the evidence seems disconnected from claim.** | **\*Writer has evidence that seems to support reasoning of claim, but not all evidence is connected or from credible sources.** | **\*Evidence is not relevant to claim and/or is not from relevant sources.** |
| **Reasoning** | **\*The writing shows a fluid, deep understanding of the topic or the text.**  **\*The writing is organized and properly explained to support the development of the claim.** | **\*The writing shows a working—but perhaps incomplete—understanding of the topic or the text.**  **\*The writing follows an acceptable format and shows ability to develop bigger claim.** | **\*The writing shows only a basic understanding of the topic or the text.**  **\*The writing seems disorganized and/or lacks ability to explain reasoning to support claim.** | **\*The writing does not show understanding of the topic or the text.**  **\*The writing lacks needed structure and/or is illogical in developing claim.** |
| **Counter Claim** | **\*The writing fairly addresses potential opposing views and eloquently disagrees with those views.** | **\*The writing mentions opposing views and attempts to explain why those views are not adequate or “right.”** | **\*The writing only broadly or passively mentions possible opposing views.** | **\*The writing fails to identify or discuss potential opposing views.** |
| **Conclusion** | **\*The writing leads to a clear conclusion that supports the claim with reasoning and support.** | **\*The writing leads to a supportable conclusion that covers basic reasoning.** | **\*The writing leads to a conclusion that mostly repeats original claim without valid reasoning.** | **\*The writing doesn’t lead to a clear conclusion about the original or intended claim.** |
| **Audience** | **\*The writing matches expertly with the intended audience, using proper style *and* citations/formatting.** | **\*The writing uses appropriate academic or discussion style with proper citations.** | **\*The writing uses acceptable style with attempted citations.** | **\*The writing does not match the style and citation format that the audience would expect.** |

**Score \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_**