





Grade 3-5 ~ Opinion Writing Rubric

Students write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.

Topic/Genre: _____

Date: _____

Name: _____

Writing Concept:	1	2	3	4
 <p>Ideas</p> <p>Write an argument with ideas that are clearly and consistently focused on the topic and are thoroughly developed with specific, relevant reasons and information.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ opinion is clearly stated, focused and strongly maintained ✓ effective and well-crafted introduction and conclusion ✓ smoothly integrates comprehensive, concrete and relevant sources, facts, and details that strongly support the writer's opinion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ opinion is clear, generally focused and for the most part maintained ✓ adequate introduction and conclusion ✓ some evidence from sources is integrated and adequately supports the writer's opinion though evidence may be general or imprecise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ author's opinion may be unclear, unfocused or insufficiently maintained ✓ introduction and conclusion, if present, are weak ✓ evidence of sources is limited, uneven and/or weakly integrated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ response may be very brief, have little or no focus, may be confusing or ambiguous ✓ introduction and/or conclusion are ineffective, incomplete, or missing ✓ little or no use of sources, with minimal, extraneous, inaccurate or irrelevant ideas
 <p>Organization</p> <p>Organization and connections between opinion and ideas are clear and logically sequenced creating a sense of unity and completeness.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ related information is effectively grouped and logically ordered from beginning to end (topic, body, conclusion) ✓ effective, consistent use of a variety of transitional strategies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ adequately groups information and progresses from beginning to end (topic, body, conclusion) ✓ adequate use of transitional strategies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ uneven progression of ideas from beginning to end (topic, body and conclusion) ✓ inconsistent use of transitional strategies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ confusing progression of ideas indicates little or no organizational structure ✓ ineffective or no use of transitions
 <p>Style</p> <p>Command of language, including effective and dynamic word choice and varied sentence structure clearly supports the author's purpose.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ uses exceptionally precise language and domain-specific academic vocabulary appropriate for the task and audience ✓ varied and effective sentence structure with multiple elaborative techniques 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ adequately expresses ideas with a mix of precise and general language and domain-specific academic vocabulary appropriate for the task and audience ✓ varied sentence structure and elaborative techniques 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ simplistic language and domain-specific academic vocabulary may at times be inappropriate for the task and audience ✓ uneven or simplistic sentence structure with weak elaborative techniques 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ uses limited or vague language or domain-specific vocabulary with little sense of purpose for the task and audience ✓ inconsistent or confusing sentence structure with limited or no elaboration
 <p>Conventions</p> <p>Conventions of Standard English for grammar, usage, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation for the grade level are effective and consistently used.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ few, if any errors in usage and sentence formation ✓ effective and consistent use of punctuation, capitalization and spelling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ some errors in usage and sentence formation are hardly noticeable and do not interfere with meaning ✓ adequate use of punctuation, capitalization, and spelling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ frequent errors in usage are noticeable and may obscure meaning ✓ inconsistent use of punctuation, capitalization, and spelling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ writing is difficult to follow and understand ✓ lack of control over conventions and usage is frequent and severe