1st Grade: Opinion Writing
Prompt: The Day the Crayons Quit

Revised & Edited: I want to be the color purple from the book called The Day the Crayons Quit. First of all, the color purple is Duncan’s favorite color and purple is a cool color. I like the color purple.

In this first grade sample, the student clearly introduces the topic & book and states their opinion (I want to be the color purple from the book called The Day the Crayons Quit.), supplies two reasons (purple is Duncan’s favorite color and purple is a cool color.), and provides closure (I like the color purple). The writer demonstrates command of conventions such as capitalizing the first word in sentences, using end punctuation, and demonstrates sufficient spelling conventions.
1st Grade: Opinion Writing
Prompt: The Day the Crayons Quit

Name: J.4ty

The Day the Crayons Quit. I think the best color is blue because it is used for many things. It is used for water, rain, and blue jays. That is why blue is the best color.

Edited: I think the best color is blue because it is used for many things. It is used for water, rain, and blue jays. That is why blue is the best color.

In this first grade sample, the writer introduces the topic and states their opinion (I think the best collar is blue), supplies reasons (for mene things. it is for water rain and blue jays), and provides closure (that is why blue is the best collar.) The writer has errors in sentence formation that confuse the reader and there is inconsistent use of punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.
Revised & Edited: I want to be a beige crayon. You ask why? Here’s why it is a good color. It can be used for wheat, a little baby belly, and a little piece of chocolate. It can also be used for a baby puppy, for someone’s hair, and to color a horse. I love beige.

In this first grade sample, the student introduces the topic they are writing about, states their opinion and provides several reasons to support their thinking, including examples from the text, and includes a sense of closure. Capitals are used appropriately, most high frequency words are spelled correctly, but the unknown words demonstrate a lack of phonemic awareness and spelling conventions.
1st Grade: Opinion Writing
Prompt: The Day the Crayons Quit

Revised and Edited: I want to be the green crayon and this is why. The green crayon is the color of dinosaurs, frogs, crocodiles, and trees. I love it. I love the green crayon so much.

In this first grade sample, the student introduces the topic and clearly states their opinion (I want to be the green crayon and this is why), supplies a number of reasons (color of dinosaurs, frogs, crocodiles, and trees), and provides some sense of closure (I love the green crayon so much.) There is inconsistent use of punctuation, but spelling and capitals are used appropriately.
Revised and Edited: *I would want to be the green crayon because he is perfect.*

In this first grade sample, the student states their opinion and supplies a reason to support their opinion. The writer does not attend to introducing the topic/name of the book they are writing about and also does not provide closure. The writer demonstrates command of conventions by capitalizing the first word in the sentence and using end punctuation. Also, the writer demonstrates a solid foundation of conventional spelling.
Revised & Edited: I want to be peach crayon because peach is a pretty color. It’s so peachy.

In this first grade writing sample, the writer names the book that the prompt is about, but does not incorporate it into their writing as an introduction. The writer does state their opinion (I want to be peach crayon), supplies a reason for their opinion (a pretty color), and provides a sense of closure (it’s so peachy). The writer demonstrates conventional spelling as appropriate and uses capitalization and punctuation that aligns with their sentence formation.
Revised & Edited: Purple is a nice color. Purple can be used for many things, like you can draw the crayon on the paper and other things. That’s why I think purple is a nice color.

In this first grade sample, the writer does not introduce the topic. The writer does state their opinion (Purple is nice color.), supplies reasons (Purple can be youed for many things like you can draw the crayon on the paper and other things.), and provides a sense of closure (Thats why I think purple is a nice color). The writer demonstrates sufficient command on spelling conventions by using capitals and punctuation appropriately.
Revised & Edited: Blue because you can draw water, the sky, balls, and books with blue. It’s also a cool color to use.

The writer does not introduce the topic, but does state their opinion in a vague manner (blue). The writer does provide reasons for their opinion (because you can draw water, the sky, balls, and books with blue), and provides a sense of closure (it’s also a cool color to use.). The student demonstrates adequate command of conventions with capitals at the beginning of sentences, use of serial commas, and end punctuation. The spelling is also strong although there are some errors in sentence formation.
Revised & Edited: In *The Day the Crayons Quit*, I **would like to be peach crayon because she’s so funny and quiet.** I **like The Day the Crayons Quit.**

The writer names the book that the prompt is about, but does not incorporate it into their writing. The writer states their opinion (I would like to be Peach), provides two reasons to support their opinion (funny and quiet), and provides a sense of closure (I like the Day the Crayons Quit). Punctuation is used inappropriately at times, however, capitals are used at the beginning of sentences and spelling is adequate.
Revised & Edited: *I am going to be the blue crayon because he is short just like me.*

In this first grade sample, the writer states their opinion (*I am going to be the blue crayon*) and supplies a reason to support their opinion (*he is short just like me*). The student does not introduce the topic nor provide a sense of closure. There is inconsistent use of punctuation and spelling conventions, but capitalization is present.
Revised & Edited: The crayon I would want to be is green because I like green dinosaurs, green crocodiles, trees, and because my favorite color is green.

In this first grade sample, the student introduces the topic (The crayon I would want to be), states their opinion (is green), and provides reasons for their opinion (I like green dinosaurs, green crocodiles, trees and my favorite color is green), but does not provide a sense of closure. The writer demonstrates their use of serial commas, but there are consistent errors in sentence formation present.
Revised & Edited: *The color I would like to be is blue because blue is his favorite crayon. He is so little.*

In this first grade writing sample, the writer names the book that the prompt is about, but does not incorporate it into their writing as an introduction. The writer does state their opinion (*The color I would like to be is blue*) and supplies two reasons (*he’s favorite crayon and he is so little*), but does not include a sense of closure. The writer has errors in usage and sentence formation that confuse the reader and has an inconsistent use of punctuation.
Revised & Edited: I would like to be the pink crayon. I think pink is a pretty color. I like pink because it is bright. I like pink because it can be different shades. That is why I think pink is the best.

In this first grade writing sample, the writer effectively states their opinion, supplies reasons, and provides a sense of closure. The writer uses capitalization in inappropriate ways (e.g., Bright, Pink, Best), but does demonstrate effective sentence formation and spelling conventions.
Revised & Edited: I want to be the green crayon. I want to be the green crayon because my favorite color is green. My second reason is that the green crayon isn’t mad at Duncan. My third reason is that green crayon isn’t tired.

In this first grade sample, the writer clearly communicates their topic and their opinion (I won’t to be the green crayon) and supplies three reasons for their opinion (favor et color is green, green crayon is’t mad at Duncan, green crayon in’t tired). The writer does not provide a sense of closure. The writer has consistent errors in their use of contractions, but spells most grade appropriate words using phonemic awareness or known spelling conventions. Capitalization and punctuation are consistently and accurately used.
Revised & Edited: Dear Duncan, This is blue crayon. I am tired of you not coloring in the lines. If you don’t color in the lines, I will quit!

In this first grade sample, the writer does not respond to the prompt, but rather retells part of the text. There is no opinion stated nor a supporting reason. The writer is inconsistent with capitalization, but uses punctuation effectively.