

**Opinion Essay
Writing Rubric (Grades 3-5)**

Score	Statement of Purpose/Focus and Organization (4-point rubric)	Evidence/Elaboration (4-point rubric)	Conventions/Editing (2-point rubric begins at scorepoint 2)
4	<p>The response is fully sustained and consistently and purposefully focused:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • opinion is clearly stated, focused, and strongly maintained • opinion is communicated clearly within the purpose, audience, and task <p>The response has a clear and effective organizational structure creating unity and completeness :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • effective, consistent use of a variety of transitional strategies to clarify the relationships between and among ideas • logical progression of ideas from beginning to end • effective introduction and conclusion for audience and purpose 	<p>The response provides thorough and convincing support/evidence for the writer’s opinion that includes the effective use of sources, facts, and details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use of evidence from sources is smoothly integrated, comprehensive, and relevant • effective use of a variety of elaborative techniques <p>The response clearly and effectively expresses ideas, using precise language:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use of academic and domain-specific vocabulary is clearly appropriate for the audience and purpose 	

3	<p>The response is adequately sustained and generally focused:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • opinion is clear and for the most part maintained, though some loosely related material may be present • context provided for the claim is adequate within the purpose, audience, and task <p>The response has a recognizable organizational structure, though there may be minor flaws and some ideas may be loosely connected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • adequate use of transitional strategies with some variety to clarify the relationships between and among ideas • adequate progression of ideas from beginning to end • adequate introduction and conclusion 	<p>The response provides adequate support/evidence for the writer's opinion that includes the use of sources, facts, and details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • some evidence from sources is integrated, though citations may be general or imprecise • adequate use of some elaborative techniques <p>The response adequately expresses ideas, employing a mix of precise with more general language:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use of domain-specific vocabulary is generally appropriate for the audience and purpose 	
---	--	--	--

2	<p>The response is somewhat sustained with some extraneous material or a minor drift in focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • may be clearly focused on the opinion but is insufficiently sustained within the purpose, audience, and task • Opinion on the issue may be somewhat unclear and unfocused <p>The response has an inconsistent organizational structure, and flaws are evident:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • inconsistent use of transitional strategies with little variety • uneven progression of ideas from beginning to end • conclusion and introduction, if present, are weak 	<p>The response provides uneven, cursory support/ evidence for the writer's opinion that includes partial or uneven use of sources, facts, and details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • evidence from sources is weakly integrated, and citations, if present, are uneven • weak or uneven use of elaborative techniques <p>The response expresses Ideas unevenly, using simplistic language:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use of domain-specific vocabulary may at times be inappropriate for the audience and purpose 	<p>The response demonstrates an adequate command of conventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • some errors in usage and sentence formation may be present, but no systematic pattern of errors is displayed • adequate use of punctuation, capitalization, and spelling
---	--	---	--

1	<p>The response may be related to the purpose but may offer little or no focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • may be very brief • may have a major drift • opinion may be confusing or ambiguous <p>The response has little or no discernible organizational structure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • few or no transitional strategies are evident • frequent extraneous ideas may intrude 	<p>The response provides minimal support/evidence for the writer's opinion that includes little or no use of sources, facts, and details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use of evidence from sources is minimal, absent, in error, or irrelevant <p>The response expression of ideas is vague, lacks clarity, or is confusing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • uses limited language or domain-specific vocabulary • may have little sense of audience and purpose 	<p>The response demonstrates a partial command of conventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • errors in usage may obscure meaning • inconsistent use of punctuation, capitalization, and spelling
0			The response demonstrates a lack of command of conventions.
NS	Insufficient, illegible, foreign language, incoherent, off-topic, or off-purpose writing		