

**CCSS Opinion Writing Rubric  
Grades 3-5**

Score	Statement of Purpose/Focus and Organization		Development: Language and Elaboration of Evidence		Conventions
	Statement of Purpose/Focus	Organization	Elaboration of Evidence	Language and Vocabulary	
4	<p>The response is <b>fully</b> sustained and consistently and purposefully focused:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>opinion is clearly stated, focused, and strongly maintained</li> <li>opinion is communicated clearly within the context</li> </ul>	<p>The response has a <b>clear and effective</b> organizational structure creating unity and completeness:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>effective, consistent use of a variety of transitional strategies</li> <li>logical progression of ideas from beginning to end</li> <li>effective introduction and conclusion for audience and purpose</li> </ul>	<p>The response provides <b>thorough and convincing</b> support/evidence for the writer's opinion that includes the effective use of sources, facts, and details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>use of evidence from sources is smoothly integrated, comprehensive, and relevant</li> <li>effective use of a variety of elaborative techniques</li> </ul>	<p>The response <b>clearly and effectively</b> expresses ideas, using precise language:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>use of academic and domain-specific vocabulary is clearly appropriate for the audience and purpose</li> </ul>	<p>The response demonstrates a <b>strong</b> command of conventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>few, if any, errors in usage and sentence formation</li> <li>effective and consistent use of punctuation, capitalization, and spelling</li> </ul>
3	<p>The response is <b>adequately</b> sustained and generally focused:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>opinion is clear and for the most part maintained, though some loosely related material may be present</li> <li>context provided for the claim is adequate</li> </ul>	<p>The response has an <b>recognizable</b> organizational structure, though there may be minor flaws and some ideas may be loosely connected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>adequate use of transitional strategies with some variety</li> <li>adequate progression of ideas from beginning to end</li> <li>adequate introduction and conclusion</li> </ul>	<p>The response provides <b>adequate</b> support/evidence for the writer's opinion that includes the use of sources, facts, and details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>some evidence from sources is integrated, though citations may be general or imprecise</li> <li>adequate use of some elaborative techniques</li> </ul>	<p>The response <b>adequately</b> expresses ideas, employing a mix of precise with more general language</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>use of domain-specific vocabulary is generally appropriate for the audience and purpose</li> </ul>	<p>The response demonstrates an <b>adequate</b> command of conventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>some errors in usage and sentence formation are present, but no systematic pattern of errors is displayed</li> <li>adequate use of punctuation, capitalization, and spelling</li> </ul>
2	<p>The response is <b>somewhat</b> sustained with some extraneous material or a minor drift in focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>may be clearly focused on the opinion but is insufficiently sustained</li> <li>opinion on the issue may be unclear and unfocused</li> </ul>	<p>The response has an <b>inconsistent</b> organizational structure, and flaws are evident:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>inconsistent use of transitional strategies with little variety</li> <li>uneven progression of ideas from beginning to end</li> <li>conclusion and introduction, if present, are weak</li> </ul>	<p>The response provides <b>uneven, cursory</b> 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"> <li>evidence from sources is weakly integrated, and citations, if present, are uneven</li> <li>weak or uneven use of elaborative techniques</li> </ul>	<p>The response expresses ideas <b>unevenly</b>, using simplistic language:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>use of domain-specific vocabulary that may at times be inappropriate for the audience and purpose</li> </ul>	<p>The response demonstrates a <b>partial</b> command of conventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>frequent errors in usage may obscure meaning</li> <li>inconsistent use of punctuation, capitalization, and spelling</li> </ul>
1	<p>The response <b>may be related</b> to the purpose but may offer little or no focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>may be very brief</li> <li>may have a major drift</li> <li>opinion may be confusing or ambiguous</li> </ul>	<p>The response has <b>little or no</b> discernible organizational structure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>few or no transitional strategies are evident</li> <li>frequent extraneous ideas may intrude</li> </ul>	<p>The response provides <b>minimal</b> 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"> <li>use of evidence from sources is minimal, absent, in error, or irrelevant</li> </ul>	<p>The response expression of ideas is <b>vague</b>, lacks clarity, or is confusing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>uses limited language or domain-specific vocabulary</li> <li>may have little sense of audience and purpose</li> </ul>	<p>The response demonstrates a <b>lack</b> of command of conventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>errors are frequent and severe and meaning is often obscured</li> </ul>