

**4-Point
Opinion
Writing Rubric (Grades 3-5)**

Score	4	3	2	1
Organization/Purpose	<p>The response has a clear and effective organizational structure, creating a sense of unity and completeness. The response is consistently and purposefully focused:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • opinion is introduced, clearly communicated, supported with reasons and provides evidence • consistent use of a variety of transitional strategies to clarify the relationships between and among ideas • effective introduction and conclusion • logical progression of ideas from beginning to end; strong connections between and among ideas with some syntactic variety 	<p>The response has an organizational structure and a sense of completeness. Though there may be minor flaws, they do not interfere with the overall coherence. The response is generally focused:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • opinion is clear and supported with some specific reasons and/or examples • adequate use of transitional strategies with some variety to clarify relationship between and among ideas • adequate introduction and conclusion • adequate progression of ideas from beginning to end; adequate connections between and among ideas 	<p>The response has an inconsistent organizational structure. Some flaws are evident, and some ideas may be loosely connected. The response may have a minor drift in focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • opinion may be somewhat unclear and offers limited or incomplete support; some reasons may be unclear or unrelated to issue • inconsistent use of transitional strategies and/or little variety • introduction or conclusion, if present, may be weak • uneven progression of ideas from beginning to end; and/or formulaic, inconsistent or unclear connections between and among ideas 	<p>The response has little or no discernible organizational structure. The response may be related to the opinion but may provide little or no focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • opinion may be confusing or ambiguous; minimal support; response may be too brief or the focus may drift • few or no transitional strategies are evident • introduction and/or conclusion may be missing • frequent extraneous ideas may be evident; ideas maybe randomly ordered or have an unclear progression

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Evidence/Elaboration	<p>The response provides thorough and convincing elaboration of the support/evidence for the opinion and supporting ideas. The response clearly and effectively develops ideas, using precise language:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • comprehensive evidence (facts, details) from source materials is integrated, relevant and specific • Logically ordered reasons and evidence that are supported by facts and details • effective use of a variety of elaborative techniques* • vocabulary is clearly appropriate for the audience and purpose • effective, appropriate style enhances content 	<p>The response provides adequate elaboration of the support/evidence for the opinion and supporting ideas. The response adequately develops ideas, employing a mix of precise with more general language:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • adequate evidence (facts, details) from source materials is integrated and relevant, yet may be general • Adequate reasons and evidence that are supported by facts and details • adequate use of some elaborative techniques* • vocabulary is generally appropriate for the audience and purpose • generally appropriate style is evident 	<p>The response provides uneven, superficial elaboration of the support/evidence for the opinion and supporting ideas. The response develops ideas unevenly, using simplistic language:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • some evidence (facts, details) from source materials may be weakly integrated, imprecise, repetitive, vague and/or copied • Weak or uneven use of reasons and evidence that may or may not be supported by facts and details • weak or uneven use of elaborative techniques* • vocabulary use is uneven or somewhat ineffective for the audience and purpose • inconsistent or weak attempt to create appropriate style 	<p>The response provides minimal elaboration of the support/evidence for the opinion and supporting ideas. The response is vague, lacks clarity, or is confusing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • evidence (facts, details) from the source materials is minimal, irrelevant, absent, incorrectly used, or predominantly copied • Little or no reasons and evidence supported by little or no facts and details • minimal, if any, use of elaborative techniques* • vocabulary is limited or ineffective for the audience and purpose • little or no evidence of appropriate style

*Elaborative techniques may include the use of personal experiences that support the opinion.

**2-Point
Opinion
Writing Rubric (Grades 3-5)**

Score	2	1	0
Conventions	<p>The response demonstrates an adequate command of conventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adequate use of correct sentence formation, punctuation, capitalization, grammar usage, and spelling 	<p>The response demonstrates a partial command of conventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited use of correct sentence formation, punctuation, capitalization, grammar usage, and spelling 	<p>The response demonstrates little or no command of conventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Infrequent use of correct sentence formation, punctuation, capitalization, grammar usage, and spelling

Holistic Scoring:

- **Variety:** A range of errors includes formation, punctuation, capitalization, grammar usage, and spelling
- **Severity:** Basic errors are more heavily weighted than higher-level errors.
- **Density:** The proportion of errors to the amount of writing done well. This includes the ratio of errors to the length of the piece.