

Opinion Essay Writing Guide (Grades 3–5)

Purpose, Focus, and Organization	Evidence and Elaboration
<p>The response is fully sustained and consistently focused within the purpose, audience, and task; and it has a clearly stated opinion and effective organizational structure creating coherence and completeness. The response includes most of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strongly maintained opinion with little or no loosely related material • Skillful use of a variety of transitional strategies to clarify the relationships between and among ideas • Logical progression of ideas from beginning to end with a satisfying introduction and conclusion 	<p>The response provides thorough and convincing support/evidence for the writer’s opinion that includes the effective use of sources, facts, and details. The response includes most of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant evidence integrated smoothly and thoroughly with references to sources • Effective use of a variety of elaborative techniques, demonstrating understanding of the topic and text • Clear and effective expression of ideas, using precise language • Academic and domain-specific vocabulary clearly appropriate for the audience and purpose • Varied sentence structure, demonstrating language facility
Conventions	
<p>The response demonstrates an adequate command of basic conventions. The response may include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some minor errors in usage, but no patterns of errors • Adequate use of punctuation, capitalization, sentence formation, and spelling 	