



## Opinion Essay Writing Guide (Grades 3-5)

| <b>Statement of Purpose/ Focus and Organization</b>  | <b>Evidence/Elaboration</b>   |
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| <p>The response is fully 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 purpose, audience, and task</li> </ul> <p>The response has a clear and effective organizational structure creating unity and completeness:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a variety of transitional strategies is consistently used to effectively clarify the relationships between and among ideas</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 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"> <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 clearly and effectively 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> |
| <b>Editing/Conventions</b>   |   |
| <p>The response displays adequate command of all grade level and preceding level conventions of writing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>some errors in usage and sentence formation may be present, but no systematic pattern of errors is displayed</li> <li>use of punctuation, capitalization, and spelling is adequate</li> </ul>  |   |