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| **W2.1 Write opinion pieces in which they introduce the topic or book they are writing about, state an opinion, supply reasons that support the opinion, use linking words (e.g., *because, and, also*) to connect opinion and reasons, and provide a concluding statement or section.** |
| **Scoring****Criteria** | **1 – Beginning** | **2 - Approaching** | **3 - Competent\*** | **4 - Advanced** |
| **Purpose and Focus**W2.1, 8 | * Launches directly into opinion without giving an introduction.
* Shows little or no awareness of purpose.
* Does not establish a focus.
* Shows no awareness of audience.
 | * Introduces the topic/book vaguely or states an opinion without any other introduction.
* Shows some awareness of purpose.
* Attempts to establish a focus, but an opinion that is vague may cause lapses.
* Shows some awareness of audience.
 | * Introduces the topic or book..
* Establishes a purpose by stating an opinion.
* Maintains focus on the opinion throughout.
* Shows an awareness of writing for an audience.
 | * Writes an engaging introduction to the topic/book.
* Establishes a purpose by stating a convincing opinion.
* Maintains a clear focus on the opinion throughout.
* Writes skillfully with an audience in mind.
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| **Idea Development and Structure**W2.1, 8 | * Attempts to provide reasons for opinion, but connections may be illogical.
* Includes reasons that appear to be in no particular order.
* Uses few or no transitional words to link opinion and reasons.
* Ends seemingly in the middle with no sense of closure.
 | * Provides some reasons for opinion, but makes some inaccurate or irrelevant connections.
* Includes reasons that are organized in some logical order.
* Uses some transitional words, but may be repetitive.
* Provides a concluding statement or sentences that may feel abrupt or insufficient.
 | * Provides clear, relevant reasons for opinion.
* Organizes reasons that progress logically.
* Uses appropriate linking words to connect opinion and reasons (e.g., because, and, also)
* Provides an effective concluding statement or section related to the opinion.
 | * Provides insightful reasons for opinion that are clearly supported by facts and details.
* Groups reasons, facts, and details in a meaningful way.
* Uses transitional words and phrases, including some that are more sophisticated.
* Provides a compelling concluding statement or section.
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| **Language and Conventions**L2.1-3 | * Attempts to use correct grammar and usage, including nouns, verbs, conjunctions, and prepositions.
* Constructs incomplete sentences.
* Uses incorrect capitalization and punctuation.
* Spells few taught words correctly and untaught words phonetically.
 | * Attempts to use correct grammar and usage, including nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions and prepositions.
* Constructs simple sentences.
* Shows some evidence of appropriate capitalization and punctuation.
* Spells some taught words correctly and untaught words phonetically.
 | * Shows frequent evidence of correct grammar and usage, including nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions and prepositions.
* Constructs simple and compound sentences.
* Uses appropriate capitalization and punctuation frequently.
* Spells most words with taught spelling patterns correctly.
 | * Demonstrates correct grammar and usage, including nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions and prepositions.
* Constructs a variety of sentence structures.
* Uses appropriate capitalization and punctuation consistently.
* Spells words with taught spelling patterns correctly and consistently.
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KWP/jb/May2016 \*Meets Standards