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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. |
| **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. |
| **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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