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| **W3.1 Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons.** | | | | |
| **Scoring**  **Criteria** | **1 - Beginning** | **2 - Approaching** | **3 - Competent\*** | **4 - Advanced** |
| **Purpose and Focus**  W3.1.a-d; W3.4 | * Launches directly into the topic and/or opinion without an introduction. * Shows little or no awareness of purpose. * Does not establish a focus. * Shows little or no awareness of audience | * Attempts an introduction to the topic/text. * Shows some awareness of purpose by stating or implying an opinion. * Attempts to establish focus, but an opinion that is vague may cause lapses. * Shows some awareness of audience. | * Introduces the topic/text. * Establishes a purpose by stating an opinion. * Maintains focus on the opinion throughout. * Shows an awareness of writing for an audience. | * Orients the reader with an engaging introduction to the topic/text. * Establishes a purpose by stating a convincing opinion. * Maintains a clear focus on the opinion throughout. * Writes clearly with an audience in mind. |
| **Idea Development and Structure**  W3.1.a-d; W3.4; W3.7; W3.8 | * Does not organize ideas and information coherently due to a lack of introduction, body and conclusion. * Does not support stated or implied opinion with facts, details, and/or reasons. * Includes information that appears to be in no particular order. * Uses few or no transitional words and phrases to link ideas. * Ends seemingly in the middle with no sense of closure. | * Organizes ideas and information in an attempted introduction, body and conclusion. * Provides reasons to support stated or implied opinion, but makes vague or illogical connections. * Includes reasons that are organized in some logical order. * Uses some transitional words and phrases, but may be repetitive. * Provides a concluding statement or sentences that may feel abrupt or insufficient. | * Organizes ideas and information into logical introduction, body and conclusion. * Provides clear, logical reasons to support opinion. * Organizes reasons in a logical progression. * Uses appropriate linking words and phrases to connect opinion and reasons (e.g., *because, therefore, since, for example*). * Provides a satisfactory concluding statement or section related to the opinion. | * Organizes ideas and information into purposeful, coherent introduction, body and conclusion. * Provides insightful reasons to support opinion that are supported by facts and details. * Organizes reasons, facts, and details into sections or paragraphs in a meaningful way. * Uses transitional words and phrases to connect opinion and reasons, including some that are more sophisticated, e.g., *for instance, in order to, in addition*). * Provides a compelling concluding statement or section related to the opinion. |
| **Language and**  **Conventions**  L3.1-3 | * Shows little evidence of correct grammar and usage, including nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs. * Uses many incomplete sentences. * Makes several convention errors (e.g., spelling, punctuation, capitalization) that impede communication. * Shows little or no awareness of good word choice to convey appropriate tone for audience (e.g., formal vs. informal). | * Shows some evidence of correct grammar and usage, including nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs. * Uses mostly simple sentences. * Makes some convention errors (e.g., spelling, punctuation, capitalization) that do not impede communication. * Shows some awareness of good word choice to convey appropriate tone for audience. | * Shows frequent evidence of correct grammar and usage, including nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs. * Constructs simple, compound, and complex sentences. * Uses conventions correctly (e.g., spelling, punctuation, capitalization). * Makes good word choices to convey an appropriate tone for audience. | * Demonstrates correct grammar and usage, including nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs throughout. * Constructs a variety of sentence structures. * Uses conventions (e.g., spelling, punctuation, capitalization) to communicate effectively and clarify the writing. * Uses words and phrases skillfully to connect with audience. |

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