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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.
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| **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.
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| **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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