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.

*Meets Standards