

4th Grade Opinion Writing Rubric

W4.1 Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.				
Scoring Criteria	1 - Beginning	2 - Approaching	3 - Competent*	4 - Advanced
Purpose and Focus W4.1.d-e; W4.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Launches directly into the topic and/or opinion without an introduction. <input type="checkbox"/> Shows little or no awareness of purpose. <input type="checkbox"/> Does not establish a focus. <input type="checkbox"/> Shows little or no awareness of audience's needs by providing inadequate or no context. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Attempts an introduction to the topic/text. <input type="checkbox"/> Shows some awareness of purpose by stating or implying an opinion. <input type="checkbox"/> Attempts to establish focus but an opinion that is vague may cause lapses. <input type="checkbox"/> Shows some awareness of audience's needs by attempting to provide some context. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Orients the reader with an introduction to the topic/text. <input type="checkbox"/> Establishes a purpose by clearly stating an opinion. <input type="checkbox"/> Maintains focus on the opinion throughout. <input type="checkbox"/> Shows an awareness of audience's needs by providing relevant contextual details. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Orients the reader with an engaging introduction to the topic/text. <input type="checkbox"/> Establishes purpose by stating a convincing opinion; maintains focus throughout. <input type="checkbox"/> Maintains clear focus on the opinion throughout. <input type="checkbox"/> Shows strong awareness of audience's needs by anticipating the reader's response to the opinion.
Idea Development and Structure W4.1.a-d; W4.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Does not organize ideas and information coherently due to a lack of introduction, body and conclusion. <input type="checkbox"/> Provides reason(s) for opinion or implied opinion that may be illogical. <input type="checkbox"/> Attempts to support reason(s) with facts, details, but makes irrelevant connections. <input type="checkbox"/> Includes supporting details that appear to be in no particular order. <input type="checkbox"/> Does not use transitional words and phrases to link opinion and reason(s). <input type="checkbox"/> Ends seemingly in the middle of a section with no sense of closure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Organizes ideas and information in an attempted introduction, body and conclusion. <input type="checkbox"/> Provides reasons for stated or implied opinion. <input type="checkbox"/> Supports reasons with information (facts, details), some of which may be illogical or inaccurate. <input type="checkbox"/> Organizes reasons, facts, and details into sections or paragraphs that feel mostly cohesive, but may also include some information that does not seem to fit. These sections or paragraphs appear to be in no particular order. <input type="checkbox"/> Uses some transitional words and phrases, but may be repetitive. <input type="checkbox"/> Provides a concluding statement or sentences that may feel abrupt or insufficient. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Organizes ideas and information into logical introduction, body and conclusion. <input type="checkbox"/> Provides clear, logical reasons for opinion. <input type="checkbox"/> Provides clear explanation of how information (facts, details) supports opinion. <input type="checkbox"/> Organizes related ideas into sections or paragraphs to logically support the writer's purpose. <input type="checkbox"/> Uses a variety of transitional words and phrases (e.g., <i>for instance</i>, <i>in order to</i>, <i>in addition</i>) to link opinion to reasons and reasons to supporting facts and details. <input type="checkbox"/> Provides a satisfactory concluding statement or section related to the opinion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Organizes ideas and information into purposeful, coherent introduction, body and conclusion. <input type="checkbox"/> Provides insightful reasons for opinion. <input type="checkbox"/> Provides insightful explanation of how information supports opinion. <input type="checkbox"/> Organizes related ideas into sections or paragraphs that are ordered in a way that strengthens the impact of the opinion (e.g., ordering reasons from least to most compelling). <input type="checkbox"/> Uses transitional words, phrases, and clauses including some that are more sophisticated (e.g., ones that show cause and effect, etc.). <input type="checkbox"/> Provides a compelling concluding statement or section that builds on the opinion.
Research W4.7-9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Does not include any outside information. <input type="checkbox"/> Does not list sources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Attempts to include relevant information from outside sources. <input type="checkbox"/> Provides some source information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Includes information from experiences or relevant information from print and digital sources. <input type="checkbox"/> Provides list of resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Includes information from experiences or summarizes relevant information from print and digital sources. <input type="checkbox"/> Provides comprehensive list of resources.
Language and Conventions L4.1-3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Shows little evidence of correct grammar and usage, including nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs. <input type="checkbox"/> Uses many incomplete sentences. <input type="checkbox"/> Makes convention errors (e.g., spelling, punctuation, capitalization) that impede communication. <input type="checkbox"/> Shows little or no awareness of good word choice to convey appropriate tone for audience (e.g., formal vs. informal). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Shows some evidence of correct grammar and usage, including nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs. <input type="checkbox"/> Uses mostly simple sentences. <input type="checkbox"/> Makes some convention errors (e.g., spelling, punctuation, capitalization) that do not impede communication. <input type="checkbox"/> Shows some awareness of good word choice to convey appropriate tone for audience. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Shows frequent evidence of correct grammar and usage, including nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs. <input type="checkbox"/> Constructs simple, compound, and complex sentences. <input type="checkbox"/> Uses conventions correctly (e.g., spelling, punctuation, capitalization). <input type="checkbox"/> Makes good word choices to convey an appropriate tone for audience. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrates correct grammar and usage, including nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs throughout. <input type="checkbox"/> Constructs a variety of sentence structures. <input type="checkbox"/> Uses conventions (e.g., spelling, punctuation, capitalization) to communicate effectively and clarify the writing. <input type="checkbox"/> Uses words and phrases skillfully to connect with audience.