



## Opinion Essay Writing Guide (Grades 3–5)

<b>Purpose, Focus, and Organization</b>	<b>Evidence and Elaboration</b>
<p>The response is fully sustained and consistently focused within the purpose, audience, and task; and it has a clearly stated opinion and effective organizational structure creating coherence and completeness. The response includes most of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Strongly maintained opinion with little or no loosely related material</li><li>• Skillful use of a variety of transitional strategies to clarify the relationships between and among ideas</li><li>• Logical progression of ideas from beginning to end with a satisfying introduction and conclusion</li></ul>	<p>The response provides thorough and convincing support/evidence for the writer's opinion that includes the effective use of sources, facts, and details. The response includes most of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Relevant evidence integrated smoothly and thoroughly with references to sources</li><li>• Effective use of a variety of elaborative techniques, demonstrating understanding of the topic and text</li><li>• Clear and effective expression of ideas, using precise language</li><li>• Academic and domain-specific vocabulary clearly appropriate for the audience and purpose</li><li>• Varied sentence structure, demonstrating language facility</li></ul>
<b>Conventions</b>	
<p>The response demonstrates an adequate command of basic conventions. The response may include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Some minor errors in usage, but no patterns of errors</li><li>• Adequate use of punctuation, capitalization, sentence formation, and spelling</li></ul>	