

Name: _____ Date: _____

Opinion Writing Scoring Guide

Topic/Prompt = _____

	No Credit (0)	Below Basic (1)	Basic (2)	Proficient (3)	Advanced (4)	Score
Organization	— No writing produced	— No opinion is stated on the topic	— Opinion on the topic is somewhat unclear	— Opinion and topic are identified — A sense of closure is provided**	— Opinion is clearly stated in a topic sentence — A concluding statement or section is provided** — Transitions link ideas	
Ideas/Content	— No writing produced	— Reasons (key/star ideas) are not related to the opinion***	— Some reasons (key/star ideas) are related to the opinion but are unclear***	— Reasons (key/star ideas) support the opinion***	— Reasons (key/star ideas) and details (the E's) support the opinion***	
Language/Style	— No writing produced	— Uses incomplete sentences and run-on sentences — Words do not fit the topic	— Uses mostly complete sentences — Some words fit, others are unclear or incorrectly used	— Uses complete sentences — Uses words that fit the topic	— Uses a variety of complete sentences — Uses some action verbs and sensory description	
Neat + CUPS*	— No writing produced	— Handwriting difficult to read — Initial capitals are missing — End punctuation is missing — Taught words misspelled; other spelling is random (not based on phonetic knowledge)	— Handwriting mostly readable — Mostly uses initial capitals — Mostly uses end punctuation — Spells some taught words correctly; estimates spelling based on phonetic knowledge	— Readable handwriting — Uses initial capitals — Uses end punctuation — Spells most taught words correctly; estimates other spellings based on phonetic knowledge	— Readable handwriting and neat paper — Uses capitalization correctly, including initial capitals, proper names, and dates — Uses end punctuation correctly; demonstrates understanding of commas and apostrophes — Spells taught words correctly; estimates other spellings based on phonetic knowledge	
* Neat = Neatness Conventions, or CUPS: C = Capitalization U = Usage P = Punctuation S = Spelling						/16

**Kindergarten, not applicable; Grade 1 requires a sense of closure; Grade 2 requires a concluding statement or section.

***Kindergarten, not applicable; Grade 1 requires one reason; Grade 2 requires more than one reason.