



Teacher-Friendly Scoring Guide for Opinion Writing

Opinion writing lays out a position logically and adheres to it. The writer uses solid evidence to convince the reader to understand or embrace the claim and point of view, believe in an idea, or take action. In some ways, opinion writing is strong informational writing—with an attitude! The writing needs to be clear, compelling, and well-supported. To accomplish that, the writer must apply the key qualities of the mode with skill and confidence.

6 EXCEPTIONAL

- A. **Claim/Opinion:** The writer has a clear position about the topic.
- B. **Evidence:** The writer supports his/her position with reasons.
- C. **Logic:** The writer expresses an opinion that makes sense.

5 STRONG

4 REFINING

- A. **Claim/Opinion:** The writer makes a general claim that needs focus.
- B. **Evidence:** The writer uses generalities or exaggerations, with few (if any) clear, concrete reasons.
- C. **Logic:** The writer's connections between ideas are hit or miss.

3 DEVELOPING

2 EMERGING

- A. **Claim/Opinion:** The writer does not have a clear position about the topic.
- B. **Evidence:** The writer does not use reasons that could sway the reader.
- C. **Logic:** The writer's opinion doesn't make sense.

1 RUDIMENTARY