

Name: _____

Opinion Research Paper Rubric

	4 Above Grade Level	3 At Grade Level	2 Approaching Grade Level	1 Below Grade Level	Score
Statement of Purpose/ Focus	<p>Response is fully sustained and consistently and purposefully focused:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opinion is clearly stated, focused, and strongly maintained • Opinion is communicated clearly within the context 	<p>The response is adequately sustained and consistently and generally focused:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opinion is clear and mostly maintained, though some loosely related material may be present • Opinion is adequately communicated within the context 	<p>The response is somewhat sustained with some unrelated material or a minor drift in focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May be clearly focused on the opinion but is insufficiently supported • Opinion on the issue may be somewhat unclear and unfocused 	<p>The response may be related to the purpose but may offer little or no focus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May be very brief • May have a major drift • Opinion may be confusing or unclear 	
Organization	<p>The response has a clear and effective organizational structure creating unity and completeness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective, consistent use of a variety of transitional strategies • Logical progression of ideas from beginning to end • Effective introduction and closure for audience and purpose 	<p>The response has a recognizable organizational structure, though there may be minor flaws and some ideas are loosely connected</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate use of transitional strategies with some variety • Adequate progression of ideas from beginning to end • Adequate introduction and conclusion 	<p>The response has an inconsistent organizational structure, and flaws are evident</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inconsistent use of basic transitional strategies with little variety • Uneven progression of ideas from beginning to end • Introduction and conclusion are weak but present 	<p>The response has little to no organizational structure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Few or no transitional strategies are evident • Frequent unrelated ideas are present • No discernible introduction or conclusion is present 	

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Elaboration of Evidence	<p>The response provides thorough and convincing support/evidence for the writer’s opinion that includes the effective use of sources, facts, and details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of evidence from sources is smoothly integrated, thorough, and relevant • Provides insightful, elaborate explanation/analysis of how evidence supports opinion 	<p>The response provides adequate support/evidence for the writer’s opinion that includes the use of sources, facts, and details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some evidence from sources is integrated, though citations may be general or imprecise • Provides clear explanation/analysis of how evidence supports opinion 	<p>The response provides uneven, random support/evidence for the writer’s opinion that includes partial use of sources, facts, and details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence from sources is weakly integrated, and citations are uneven • Provides some, but weak explanation/analysis of how evidence supports opinion 	<p>The response provides very little support/evidence for the writer’s opinion that includes little or no use of sources, facts, and details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of evidence from sources is minimal, absent, in error, or irrelevant • Provides no or inaccurate explanation/analysis of how evidence supports opinion 	
Language and Vocabulary	<p>The response clearly and effectively expresses ideas, using precise language:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses precise and sophisticated academic and domain-specific vocabulary appropriate for the audience and purpose 	<p>The response adequately expresses ideas, employing a mix of precise with more general vocabulary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses academic and domain specific vocabulary appropriate for the audience and purpose 	<p>The response expresses ideas unevenly, using simplistic language:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses limited academic and/or domain-specific vocabulary for the audience and purpose 	<p>The response expresses ideas vaguely, lacks clarity, and/or is confusing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses limited or no academic or domain-specific vocabulary • May have little sense of audience and purpose 	
Conventions	<p>The response demonstrates a strong command of conventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Few, if any, errors, in usage and sentence structure • Effective and consistent use of punctuation, capitalization, and spelling 	<p>The response demonstrates an adequate command of conventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some errors in usage and sentence structure are present, but no pattern of errors is displayed • Adequate use of punctuation, capitalization, and spelling 	<p>The response demonstrates a partial command of conventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequent errors in usage may interfere with meaning • Inconsistent use of punctuation, capitalization, and spelling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The response demonstrates a lack of command of conventions: • Errors are frequent and severe and interferes with meaning 	

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Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All required resources were used Facts were clearly referenced using in-text citations as discussed in class 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most required resources were used Most facts were referenced using in-text citations as discussed in class 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some required resources were used Some in-text citations were used as discussed in class 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Little to no required resources were used Little to no in-text citations were used 	
Cover Page	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A cover page was present All instructions were followed to create it 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A cover page was present Most of the instructions were followed to create it 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A cover page was present Some of the instructions were followed to create it 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A cover sheet was present Little to no instructions were followed (0 score if no cover sheet) 	
Bibliography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bibliography page is present All formatting is correct 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bibliography page is present Most of the formatting is correct 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bibliography page is present Some of the formatting is correct 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bibliography page is present Little to no formatting is done correctly (0 score if no bibliography page) 	

NOTE: A response gets no credit (NC) if it provides no evidence of the ability to write an opinion piece.

Overall Score: _____

Comments:

**Adapted from Smarter Balanced Opinion Writing Rubric (Grades 3-5)

(Changes have been made to include my own required research components.)