FINAL

English Language Arts
Text-based Writing Rubrics
Grades 4–5: Opinion
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Purpose, Focus, and Organization (4-point Rubric)</th>
<th>Evidence and Elaboration (4-point Rubric)</th>
<th>Conventions of Standard English (2-point Rubric begins at score point 2)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 4     | 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:  
- Strongly maintained opinion with little or no loosely related material  
- Skillful use of a variety of transitional strategies to clarify the relationships between and among ideas  
- Logical progression of ideas from beginning to end with a satisfying introduction and conclusion | 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:  
- Relevant evidence integrated smoothly and thoroughly with references to sources  
- Effective use of a variety of elaborative techniques, demonstrating understanding of the topic and text  
- Clear and effective expression of ideas, using precise language  
- Academic and domain-specific vocabulary clearly appropriate for the audience and purpose  
- Varied sentence structure, demonstrating language facility |  |
| 3     | The response is adequately sustained and generally focused within the purpose, audience, and task; and it has an opinion and evident organizational structure with a sense of completeness. The response includes most of the following:  
- A maintained opinion, though some loosely related material may be present  
- Adequate use of transitional strategies with some variety to clarify the relationships between and among ideas  
- Adequate progression of ideas from beginning to end with a sufficient introduction and conclusion | The response provides adequate support/evidence for the writer’s opinion that includes the use of sources, facts, and details. The response includes most of the following:  
- Generally integrated evidence from sources, though references may be general, imprecise, or inconsistent  
- Adequate use of some elaborative techniques  
- Adequate expression of ideas, employing a mix of precise and general language  
- Domain-specific vocabulary generally appropriate for the audience and purpose  
- Some variation in sentence structure |  |

Continued on the following page
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| 2     | The response is somewhat sustained within the purpose, audience, and task but may include loosely related or extraneous material; and it may have an opinion with an inconsistent organizational structure. The response may include the following:  

- Partially focused opinion but insufficiently sustained or unclear  
- Inconsistent use of transitional strategies with little variety  
- Uneven progression of ideas from beginning to end and an inadequate introduction or conclusion | The response provides uneven, cursory support/evidence for the writer’s opinion that includes ineffective use of sources, facts, and details. The response may include the following:  

- Weakly integrated evidence from sources and erratic or irrelevant references  
- Repetitive or ineffective use of elaborative techniques  
- Imprecise or simplistic expression of ideas  
- Inappropriate or ineffective domain-specific vocabulary  
- Sentences possibly limited to simple constructions | The response demonstrates an adequate command of basic conventions. The response may include the following:  

- Some minor errors in usage but no patterns of errors  
- Adequate use of punctuation, capitalization, sentence formation, and spelling |
| 1     | The response is related to the topic but may demonstrate little or no awareness of the purpose, audience, and task; and it may have no discernible opinion and little or no discernible organizational structure. The response may include the following:  

- Absent, confusing, or ambiguous opinion  
- Frequent extraneous ideas impeding understanding  
- Few or no transitional strategies  
- Too brief to demonstrate knowledge of focus or organization | The response provides minimal support/evidence for the writer’s opinion, including little if any use of sources, facts, and details. The response may include the following:  

- Minimal, absent, erroneous, or irrelevant evidence from the source material  
- Expression of ideas that is vague, unclear, or confusing  
- Limited or inappropriate language or domain-specific vocabulary  
- Sentences limited to simple constructions | The response demonstrates a partial command of basic conventions. The response may include the following:  

- Various errors in usage  
- Inconsistent use of correct punctuation, capitalization, sentence formation, and spelling |
| 0     |                                           |                                         | The response demonstrates a lack of command of conventions, with frequent and severe errors often obscuring meaning. |