Common Core State Standards Writing Rubric
Opinion Writing Rubric (Grade 4)
Write opinion pieces on topics or texts supporting a point of view with reasons and information.

Score	Statement of Purpose/Focus and Organization		Development: Language and Elaboration of Evidence		
	Statement of Purpose/Focus	Organization	Elaboration of Evidence	Language and Vocabulary	Conventions
4 Proficient	◆ Introduces a topic and opinion that is focused, clearly stated, and strongly maintained	◆ Has a clear and effective organizational structure ◆ Uses linking words and phrases to connect opinion and reasons ◆ Provides a concluding statement or section related to the opinion presented	◆ Provides thorough and convincing support/evidence for the writer's opinion that includes the effective use of sources, facts, and details	◆ Uses precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to explain the topic ◆Uses correct and varied sentence structures.	◆ Demonstrates command of grade-level conventions of capitalization, punctuation, and spelling; errors are minor and do not interfere with understanding of the text.
3 Approaching	◆ Attempts to introduce a topic and opinion that is focused, clearly stated, and strongly maintained	◆ Has a recognizable organizational structure with minor flaws ◆ Attempts to use linking words and phrases to connect opinion and reasons ◆ Attempts to provide a concluding statement or section related to the opinion presented	◆ Provides adequate support/evidence for the writer's opinion that includes the use of sources, facts, and details	◆ Attempts to use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to explain the topic most of the time ◆ Uses correct and varied sentence structures most of the time.	◆ Uses grade-level appropriate conventions of capitalization, punctuation, and spelling most of the time; errors do not interfere with understanding of the text
2 Below	◆ Attempts to introduce a topic and opinion that is focused, stated, and maintained with limited success	◆ Has an inconsistent organizational structure, flaws are evident ◆ Uses some linking words and phrases to connect opinions and reasons ◆ Attempts to provide a concluding statement or section with limited success	◆ Provides uneven, cursory support/evidence for the writer's opinion that includes partial or uneven use of sources, facts, and details	◆ Uses precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to explain the topic some of the time ◆ Uses correct or varied sentence structures some of the time.	◆ Uses grade-level appropriate conventions of capitalization, punctuation, and spelling some of the time; some errors interfere with understanding of the text.
1 Far Below	◆ Does not introduce a clear topic or opinion	◆ Has little or no discernible organizational structure ◆ Does not use linking words or phrases to connect opinions and reasons ◆ Does not provide a concluding statement or section related to the opinion presented	◆ Provides minimal support/evidence for the writer's opinion that includes little or no use of sources, facts, or details	◆ Does not use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to explain the topic ◆ Does not use correct or varied sentence structures.	◆ Does not use grade-level appropriate conventions of capitalization, punctuation, and spelling; errors prohibit understanding of the text.