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|  | **Exceeding Standard (4)** | **At Standard (3)** | **Approaching Standard (2)** | **Below Standard (1)** |
| Focus: Opinion  CCSS:  W2.1 | * **States an opinion that demonstrates an insightful understanding of the topic and /or text** | * **States an opinion that demonstrates an understanding of the topic and /or text** | * **States an opinion that demonstrates limited understanding of the topic and /or text** | * **Does not state an opinion and /or demonstrates little to no understanding of the topic and /or text** |
| Organization  CCSS:  W2.1 | * **Introduces a topic and states a clear opinion and creates and organizational structure** * **Uses linking words and phrases to connect the opinion to reasons** * **Provides a skillful concluding statement or section** | * **Introduces a topic and states a clear opinion.**      * **Uses linking words to connect the opinion to reasons** * **Provides a concluding statement or section** | * **Introduces a topic and states an unclear opinion** * **Uses few linking words that may be incorrect or ineffective to connect the opinion to reasons** * **Provides an unclear concluding statement or section** | * **Does not introduce the topic and / or does not state an opinion** * **Uses no linking words to connect the opinion to reasons** * **Provides no concluding statement or section** |
| Support / Evidence  CCSS:  W2.1 | * **Supports an opinion with substantial and relevant reasons from provided resources with accuracy** | * **Supports an opinion with relevant and sufficient reasons from provided resources with accuracy** | * **Supports an opinion with minimal and / or irrelevant reasons from provided resources** | * **Does not support an opinion with reasons** |
| Language Conventions of Grammar and Usage  CCSS:  L2.1b  L2.1e  L2.1f | * **Meets the requirements for a Level 3** * **Meets the requirements for a Level 3** * **Produces simple, compound and complex sentences correctly** | * **Uses verb tenses and plural nouns correctly including some irregular forms** * **Uses pronouns correctly** * **Produces simple and compound sentences correctly** | * **Uses some regular verb tenses and common plural nouns correctly** * **Uses pronouns correctly some of the time** * **Produces mostly correct and complete simple sentences** | * **Uses verb tenses and plural nouns incorrectly** * **Uses pronouns incorrectly or not at all** * **Produces mostly incorrect sentences** |
| Language Conventions of Capitalization, Punctuation, and Spelling  CCSS:  L2.2 | * **Meets the requirements for a Level 3** * **Meets the requirements for a Level 3** * **Applies above grade level spelling rules and patterns correctly** | * **Capitalizes correctly and consistently with a few errors** * **Consistently uses commas, apostrophes and end punctuation correctly with few to no errors** * **Applies grade level spelling rules and patterns correctly with few to no errors** | * **Inconsistently capitalizes correctly with several errors** * **Inconsistently uses commas, apostrophes and end punctuation correctly** * **Applies some grade level spelling rules and patterns correctly; some errors and phonetic spelling interfere with readability** | * **Capitalizes incorrectly with many errors** * **Uses commas, apostrophes and end punctuation incorrectly or not at all** * **Misapplies grade level spell-ing rules through phonetic spelling; excessive errors interfere with readability** |
| W2.5 | * **With guidance and support from adults and peers, focus on a topic and strengthen writing as needed by revising and editing.** | | | |