Scoring Rubric for Opinion/Argument Writing---Grade 4

Construct Measured	Score Point 4 (Advanced)	Score Point 3 (Proficient)	Score Point 2 (Basic)	Score Point 1 (Below Basic)
	• Responds skillfully to	• Responds to all parts of	• Responds to most parts	• Responds to some or no
Focus/ Content	all parts of the prompt	the prompt	of the prompt	parts of the prompt
	• States an opinion that demonstrates an insightful under- standing of topic/text	 States an opinion that demonstrates an understanding of topic/text 	 States an opinion that demonstrates limited understanding of topic/text 	• Does not state an opinion and/or demonstrates little to no understanding of topic/text
	• Supports opinion skillfully with substantial and relevant facts, details, and/or reasons	• Supports opinion with relevant facts, details, and/or reasons	• Supports opinion with minimal and/or irrelevant facts, details, and/or reasons	• Does not support opinion with facts, details, and/or reasons
	• Provides insightful explanation/analysis of how evidence supports opinion	• Provides clear explanation/analysis of how evidence supports opinion	• Provides some explanation/analysis of how evidence supports opinion	• Provides no or inaccurate explanation/analysis of how evidence supports opinion

Organization	• Organizes ideas and information into purposeful, coherent paragraphs that include an elaborated introduction with clear thesis, structured body, and insightful conclusion	• Organizes ideas and information into logical introductory, body, and concluding paragraphs	• Organizes ideas and information in an attempted paragraph structure that includes a sense of introduction, body, and conclusion	• Does not organize ideas and information coherently due to lack of paragraph structure and/or a missing introduction, body, or conclusion
	• Uses linking words, phrases, and clauses skillfully to connect reasons to opinion	• Uses linking words and phrases appropriately to connect reasons to opinion	• Uses some linking words and/or phrases to connect reasons to opinion but simplistically	• Uses no linking words or phrases
Language/ Mechanics	 Uses purposeful, correct, and varied sentence structures 	• Uses correct and varied sentence structures	 Uses some repetitive yet correct sentence structure 	 Does not demonstrate sentence mastery
	• Demonstrates creativity and flexibility when using conventions (grammar, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling) to enhance meaning	• Demonstrates grade level appropriate conventions; errors are minor and do not obscure meaning	• Demonstrates some grade level appropriate conventions, but errors obscure meaning	• Demonstrates limited understanding of grade level appropriate conventions, and errors interfere with the meaning
	• Uses sophisticated and precise academic and domain-specific vocab. appropriate for the audience/purpose	• Uses academic and domain-specific vocabulary appropriate for the audience and purpose	• Uses limited academic and/or domain-specific vocabulary for the audience and purpose	• Uses no academic or domain-specific vocabulary