		Grade 1	
core	Purpose and Organization	Elaboration	Conventions
4	<ul> <li>The response is clearly focused and organized:</li> <li>Opinion is clearly stated, focused, and maintained</li> <li>Logical progression of ideas from beginning to end</li> <li>Effective use of varied transitional words to connect opinion and reasons</li> <li>Effective concluding statement</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>The response provides thorough and effective elaboration:</li> <li>Reason(s) effectively support opinion</li> <li>Use of examples to clarify reason(s)</li> <li>Effective use of varied, precise, and appropriate academic and domain specific vocabulary</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>The response demonstrates a strong command of conventions :</li> <li>forms and expands complete simple and compound sentences with proper subject verb agreement correctly</li> <li>uses correct capitalization for the first word in a sentence the pronoun <i>"I"</i>, dates, and names of people</li> <li>spells words with common spelling patterns and frequently occurring irregular words correctly and uses inventive spelling for all other words that are decipherable by most readers</li> <li>uses correct end punctuation</li> <li>uses commas correctly in dates and to separate single words in a series (if used)</li> </ul>
3	The response is adequately focused:	The response provides adequate elaboration:	The response demonstrates an adequate command of conventions:
	<ul> <li>Opinion is clear and for the most part maintained</li> <li>Use of simple transitional words to connect opinion and reason</li> <li>Provides an adequate sense of closure</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Includes a reason that adequately supports the opinion</li> <li>Adequate use of varied, precise, and appropriate academic and domain specific vocabulary</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>forms complete simple sentences with proper subject verb agreement most of the time</li> <li>uses capitalization for the first word in a sentence the pronoun "I", dates, and names of people most of the time</li> <li>spells words with common spelling patterns and frequently occurring irregular words and uses inventive spelling for all other words that are decipherable most of the time</li> <li>uses end punctuation most of the time</li> <li>uses commas in dates and to separate single words in a series (if used)</li> </ul>
2	<ul> <li>The response is somewhat focused and organized:</li> <li>Opinion may be unclear and unfocused</li> <li>Inconsistent or limited use of transitional words</li> <li>Closing, if present, may be weak or patterned</li> <li>Weak connection among ideas</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>The response provides some elaboration:</li> <li>Uneven or weak reason to support the opinion</li> <li>Use of simple vocabulary</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>The response demonstrates a partial command of conventions:</li> <li>has many capitalization errors</li> <li>spelling errors interfere with reading</li> <li>inconsistent use of punctuation</li> </ul>
1	<ul> <li>The response lacks focus and organization:</li> <li>May be off topic, or include extraneous details</li> <li>Fails to state an opinion</li> <li>May be confusing</li> <li>No transitional words</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>The response provides minimal elaboration:</li> <li>Lacks reason to support the opinion</li> <li>Uses limited language</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>The response demonstrates a lack of command of conventions by:</li> <li>errors in capitalization, punctuation, and spelling are frequent and meaning is often obscured</li> </ul>