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| **CATEGORY** | **Above Expectations**  **(4)** | **Meets Expectations**  **(3)** | **Approaching**  **Expectations**  **(2)** | **Below Expectations**  **(1)** | **Score** |
| Opinion Statement | The opinion statement provides a clear, strong statement of the author's opinion on the topic. | The opinion statement provides a clear statement of the author's opinion on the topic. | An opinion statement is present, but does not make the author's opinion clear. | There is no opinion statement. |  |
| Support for Opinion | Includes 3 or more pieces of evidence from the text(s) that support the opinion statement. | Includes 2 or more pieces of evidence from the text(s) that support the opinion statement. | Includes 1 piece of evidence from the text(s) that supports the opinion statement. | Does not include evidence from the text(s). |  |
| Closing paragraph | The conclusion includes an effective restatement of the opinion statement and is strong and leaves the reader solidly understanding the writer's opinion. | The conclusion is recognizable. The author's opinion is restated in the closing paragraph. | The conclusion is recognizable, but the author's opinion is not restated within the closing paragraph. | There is no conclusion - the paper just ends. |  |
| Grammar & Spelling | Author makes no errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content. | Author makes 1-2 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content. | Author makes 3-4 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content. | Author makes more than 4 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content. | \_\_/16 |