

Ohio's State Tests

English Language Arts Opinion Writing Rubric Grades 3–5

UPDATED October 2016

Ohio’s State Test Opinion Writing Rubric, Grades 3-5 (Score points within each domain include most of the characteristics below.)			
Score	Purpose, Focus, and Organization (4-points)	Evidence and Elaboration (4-points)	Conventions of Standard English (Begins at score point 2)
4	<p>The response is fully sustained and consistently focused within the purpose, audience, and task; and it has a clearly stated opinion and effective organizational structure creating coherence and completeness. The response includes most of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A strongly maintained opinion with little or no loosely related material • Skillful use of a variety of transitional strategies to clarify the relationships between and among ideas • Logical progression of ideas from beginning to end with a satisfying introduction and conclusion 	<p>The response provides thorough and convincing support/evidence for the writer’s opinion that includes the effective use of sources, facts, and details. The response includes most of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant evidence integrated smoothly and thoroughly with references to sources • Effective use of a variety of elaborative techniques, demonstrating understanding of the topic and text • Clear and effective expression of ideas, using precise language • Academic and domain-specific vocabulary clearly appropriate for the audience and purpose • Varied sentence structure, demonstrating language facility 	
3	<p>The response is adequately sustained and generally focused within the purpose, audience, and task; and it has an opinion and evident organizational structure with a sense of completeness. The response includes most of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A maintained opinion, though some loosely related material may be present • Adequate use of transitional strategies with some variety to clarify the relationships between and among ideas • Adequate progression of ideas from beginning to end with a sufficient introduction and conclusion 	<p>The response provides adequate support/evidence for the writer’s opinion that includes the use of sources, facts, and details. The response includes most of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally integrated evidence from sources, though references may be general, imprecise, or inconsistent • Adequate use of some elaborative techniques • Adequate expression of ideas, employing a mix of precise and general language • Domain-specific vocabulary generally appropriate for the audience and purpose • Some variation in sentence structure 	

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Score	Purpose, Focus, and Organization (4-points)	Evidence and Elaboration (4-points)	Conventions of Standard English (2-points)
2	<p>The response is somewhat sustained within the purpose, audience, and task but may include loosely related or extraneous material; and it may have an opinion with an inconsistent organizational structure. The response may include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A partially focused opinion but insufficiently sustained or unclear • Inconsistent use of transitional strategies with little variety • Uneven progression of ideas from beginning to end and an inadequate introduction or conclusion 	<p>The response provides uneven, cursory support/evidence for the writer's opinion that includes ineffective use of sources, facts, and details. The response may include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weakly integrated evidence from sources and erratic or irrelevant references • Repetitive or ineffective use of elaborative techniques • Imprecise or simplistic expression of ideas • Inappropriate or ineffective domain-specific vocabulary • Sentences possibly limited to simple constructions 	<p>The response demonstrates an adequate command of basic conventions. The response may include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some minor errors in usage but no patterns of errors • Adequate use of punctuation, capitalization, sentence formation, and spelling
1	<p>The response is related to the topic but may demonstrate little or no awareness of the purpose, audience, and task; and it may have no discernible opinion and little or no discernible organizational structure. The response may include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A confusing, or ambiguous opinion • Frequent extraneous ideas impeding understanding • Few transitional strategies • Too brief to demonstrate knowledge of focus or organization 	<p>The response provides minimal support/evidence for the writer's opinion, including little if any use of sources, facts, and details. The response may include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimal, erroneous, or irrelevant evidence from the source material • Expression of ideas that is vague, unclear, or confusing • Limited or inappropriate language or domain-specific vocabulary • Sentences limited to simple constructions 	<p>The response demonstrates a partial command of basic conventions. The response may include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various errors in usage • Inconsistent use of correct punctuation, capitalization, sentence formation, and spelling
0	<p>This response is minimally related or unrelated to the topic and demonstrates no awareness of the purpose, audience and task; and has no focus or organizational structure. The response may:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be blank or show a written refusal to answer • Be presented in a language other than English • Include only a restatement of the stem • Consist of random keystroke characters • Include only bulleted points • Include no transitional strategies 	<p>The response provides no evidence related to the topic or the passages. It may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only direct copy of part of the reading selection • No relevant academic or domain-specific vocabulary • No writer's opinion • No evidence from the support material(s) 	<p>The response demonstrates a lack of command of conventions, with frequent and severe errors often obscuring meaning.</p>