

Sample Smarter Balanced Opinion Writing Rubric for the CA Standards Grades 3-5



Score	Statement of Purpose/Focus	Organization	Elaboration of Evidence	Language and Vocabulary	Conventions
4	<p>The response is fully sustained and has a consistent and purposeful focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opinion is clearly stated, focused, and strongly maintained. Opinion is communicated clearly within the context. 	<p>The response has a clear and effective organizational structure, creating unity and completeness:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective, consistent use of a variety of transitional strategies. Logical progression of ideas from beginning to end. Effective introduction and closure for audience and purpose. 	<p>The response provides thorough and convincing support/evidence for the writer's opinion that includes the effective use of sources, facts, and details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of evidence from sources is smoothly integrated, comprehensive, and relevant. Effective use of a variety of elaborative techniques. 	<p>The response clearly and effectively expresses ideas, using precise language:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of academic and domain-specific vocabulary is clearly appropriate for the audience and purpose. 	<p>The response demonstrates a strong command of conventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Few, if any, errors, in usage and sentence formation Effective and consistent use of punctuation, capitalization, and spelling
3	<p>The response is adequately sustained and consistently and generally focused:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opinion is clear and for the most part maintained, though some loosely related material may be present. Context provided for the claim is adequate. 	<p>The response has a recognizable organizational structure, though there may be minor flaws and some ideas loosely connected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adequate use of transitional strategies with some variety. Adequate progression of ideas from beginning to end. Adequate introduction and conclusion. 	<p>The response provides adequate support/evidence for the writer's opinion that includes the use of sources, facts, and details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some evidence from sources is integrated, though citations may be general or imprecise Adequate use of some elaborative techniques. 	<p>The response adequately expresses ideas, employing a mix of precise with more general language</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of domain-specific vocabulary is generally appropriate for the audience and purpose. 	<p>The response demonstrates an adequate command of conventions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some errors in usage and sentence formation are present, but no systematic pattern of errors is displayed. Adequate use of punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.
2	<p>The response is somewhat sustained with some extraneous material or a minor drift in focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> May be clearly focused on the opinion but is insufficiently sustained. Opinion on the issue may be unclear and unfocused. 	<p>The response has an inconsistent organizational structure, and flaws are evident:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inconsistent use of basic transitional strategies with little variety. Uneven progression of ideas from beginning to end. Conclusion and introduction, if present, are weak. 	<p>The response provides uneven, cursory support/evidence for the writer's opinion that includes partial or uneven use of sources, facts, and details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence from sources is weakly integrated, and citations, if present are uneven. Weak or uneven use of elaborative techniques. 	<p>The response expresses ideas unevenly, using simplistic language:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of domain-specific vocabulary that may at times be inappropriate for the audience and purpose. 	<p>The response demonstrates a partial command of conventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frequent errors in usage may obscure meaning. Inconsistent use of punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.
1	<p>The response may be related to the purpose but may offer little or no focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> May be very brief May have a major drift Opinion may be confusing or ambiguous. 	<p>The response has little or no discernible organizational structure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Few or no transitional strategies are evident Frequent extraneous ideas may intrude. 	<p>The response provides minimal support/evidence for the writer's opinion that includes little or no use of sources, facts, and details.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of evidence from sources is minimal, absent, in error, or irrelevant. 	<p>The response lacks expression of ideas, is vague, lacks clarity or is confusing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses limited language or domain-specific vocabulary May have little sense of audience and purpose. 	<p>The response demonstrates a lack of command of conventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Errors are frequent and severe and meaning is often obscured.
0	A response gets no credit if it provides no evidence of the ability to write an opinion text.				