

Opinion essay grading rubric

	EXCELLENT	VERY GOOD	SATISFACTORY	INSUFFICIENT
INTRODUCTION Background/History Define the Problem Thesis Statement	Well-developed introductory paragraph contains detailed background information, a clear explanation or definition of the problem, devices to create interest, and a well-formed, properly placed thesis statement.	Introductory paragraph contains some background information, a technique for creating interest, and states the problem, but does not explain using details. States the thesis of the paper.	Introduction states the thesis but does not adequately explain the background of the problem nor does the writer attempt to create interest. The problem is stated, but lacks detail.	Thesis and/or problem is vague or unclear. Writer does not attempt to create interest. Background details are a seemingly random collection of information, unclear, or not related to the topic.
MAIN POINTS Body Paragraphs Refutation	Three or more main points are well developed with supporting details. Refutation paragraph acknowledges the opposing view and argues it logically. It is obvious that a plan was developed to create sound, logical development.	Three or more main points are present but may lack detail and development in one or two. Refutation paragraph acknowledges the opposing view, but does not present sound counterpoint. Overall, the paper is logically developed.	Three or more main points, but all lack development. Refutation paragraph missing and/or vague. There are one or two examples that are not sound, logical argument. Paper itself is repetitious, contradictory, or shows lack of organizational planning.	Fewer than three main points, with poor development of ideas. Refutation missing or vague. Obvious lack of sound, logical argument throughout. There are many examples of poor organizational planning.
CONCLUSION	Conclusion summarizes the main topics without repeating previous sentences; writer's commentary and suggestions for change are logical and well thought out.	Conclusion summarizes main topics. Some suggestions for change are evident.	Conclusion summarizes main topics, but is repetitive. No suggestions for change and/or commentary are included.	Conclusion does not adequately summarize the main points. No commentary or suggestions for change are included.
MECHANICS AND STYLE Sentence Structure Punctuation Capitalization Spelling Diction Sentence Variety	Sentence structure is correct and sentences are varied (beginnings, lengths, structures). Diction is at a college level or the appropriate level for the audience. Punctuation, spelling and capitalization are correct. No other mechanical errors.	Sentence structure is generally correct. Some awkward sentences do appear. Sentences show some variety, with an occasional (1 or 2) repetition of sentence beginnings or a number of consecutive sentences of the same length or type. Diction is mostly at the college level, with some examples of unsophisticated or poor/incorrect word choices. There are one or two errors in punctuation, spelling, capitalization and/or other mechanics.	Work contains some sentence errors (2 or 3) and grammatical errors. There are three or four errors in punctuation, spelling, capitalization, and/or other mechanics. Many consecutive sentences begin with the same words, are of the same length or the same sentence construction. Diction is very elementary and lacks flair.	Work contains multiple incorrect sentence structures (more than 3). There are more than 4 errors in punctuation, spelling, capitalization, and/or other mechanics. Diction is elementary and often writing is awkward due to many examples of poor/incorrect word choice.