









**Opinion: Topic Rubric**

<b>Genre Chart Opinion: Topic</b>	<b>4 Exceeded Goal</b>	<b>3 Accomplished Goal</b>	<b>2 Just Beginning</b>	<b>1 Hasn't Started</b>
<p>Uses informal letter format</p> 	<p>Uses informal letter format perfectly</p>	<p>Uses informal letter format</p>	<p>Uses some parts of informal letter format</p>	<p>Does not use informal letter format</p>
<p>Engages the reader</p> 	<p>Uses two engaging strategies</p>	<p>Uses an engaging strategy</p>	<p>Tries to use an engaging strategy</p>	<p>Does not use an engaging strategy</p>
<p>States an opinion about the topic</p> 	<p>States a strong, purposeful opinion</p>	<p>States a clear opinion about the topic</p>	<p>Opinion is unclear</p>	<p>Does not have an opinion about the topic</p>
<p>Gives reasons for your opinion</p> 	<p>Gives only important reasons for your opinion</p>	<p>Gives reasons for your opinion</p>	<p>Reasons do not support your opinion</p>	<p>Does not give reasons for your opinion</p>
<p>Uses vivid verbs, naming nouns, adjectives, and sensory details</p> 	<p>Strategies paint a detailed picture with words</p>	<p>Strategies paint a picture with words</p>	<p>Words do not paint a picture</p>	<p>Does not use any strategies to paint a picture with words</p>
<p>Uses transitions and varies sentence beginnings</p> 	<p>Transitions and varied sentence beginnings link ideas</p>	<p>Uses transitions to connect ideas and varies sentence beginnings</p>	<p>Uses minimal transitions and varied sentence beginnings</p>	<p>Does not use transitions or vary sentence beginnings</p>
<p>Concludes with a question</p> 	<p>Concludes with a meaningful question</p>	<p>Concludes with a question</p>	<p>Concludes with a weak question</p>	<p>Does not have an ending</p>
<p>Correct conventions support meaning</p> 	<p>No or minor errors in spelling, punctuation, and grammar</p>	<p>A few errors pop out but do not interfere with the essay</p>	<p>Frequent errors distract the reader</p>	<p>So many errors it is hard to read</p>

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Opinion: Topic**

Engaging Beginning

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Topic Sentence (Opinion)

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First Reason

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Next Reason(s)

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Next Reason(s)

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Last Reason(s)

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Conclusion

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# Informal Letter Format

Heading

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Dear \_\_\_\_\_ ,

Greeting

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Body

\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_

Closing

} \_\_\_\_\_ ,

Signature

} \_\_\_\_\_

## Wacky Details

One \_\_\_\_\_ (sensory detail: feels) morning, Mr. Brady went to the \_\_\_\_\_ (sensory detail: looks) coffee shop to get a cup of \_\_\_\_\_ (sensory detail: taste) coffee. Walking up to the counter he saw his \_\_\_\_\_ (adjective: describe someone's personality) friend, Rebecca.

“Hi, Rebecca! How are you doing this \_\_\_\_\_ (adjective) morning?”

“Oh, Mr. Brady. Hello. Well, you know I am feeling very \_\_\_\_\_ (sensory detail: give a feeling). Are we still on for lunch?” she asked.

“Yes. I'll see you at the \_\_\_\_\_ (adjective) restaurant at noon. Well, I hope you have a \_\_\_\_\_ (adjective) day, Rebecca.” He said with a smile and a wave. Mr. Brady ordered his coffee and a \_\_\_\_\_ (sensory detail: taste) doughnut. After adding some \_\_\_\_\_ (sensory detail: color) milk to his coffee, he sat down at a \_\_\_\_\_ (sensory detail: size) table.

“Oh, no!” Mr. Brady shouted. Suddenly he realized that he sat in something \_\_\_\_\_ (sensory detail: feels). Quickly, he stood up and looked at his chair. It was covered in a \_\_\_\_\_ (sensory detail: looks or feels) substance.

“Well, looks like I have to change out of these \_\_\_\_\_ (sensory detail: looks) clothes before I meet Rebecca for lunch,” he thought to himself. So, Mr. Brady returned home to put on some \_\_\_\_\_ (sensory detail: looks) for his lunch with Rebecca.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Transitions and Varied Sentence Beginnings

**Directions:** Fill in the blanks by choosing an appropriate transitional word or phrase. Choose the transition that you think best links ideas and completes the sentence. When you finish, circle all the prepositional phrases in the paragraph. There may be more than one correct answer.

Transitional Words and Phrases		
A couple hours later	Around noon	In the afternoon
Above all,	Finally,	In the evening
Across the globe,	First,	In the morning
Additionally,	First of all,	Later
After enjoying paella,	First thing,	Last,
After work	In addition	Living in Spain,
Also,	In Barcelona	Then

### Living in Another Country

Do you ever wonder what it would be like to live in Spain? During my third year in college, I lived in Spain for one year. I think it is a wonderful place to experience a new and interesting culture. \_\_\_\_\_ I experienced how people lived their daily lives. \_\_\_\_\_ people get up, have a coffee and toast and go to work. \_\_\_\_\_ work and shops close so people can go home and have a siesta. People usually enjoy a big meal and time with their families and friends. \_\_\_\_\_ they go back to work for a while. When people get home, they cook a light dinner and go out with friends until 9 or 10 o'clock. If you enjoy a flavorful meal, you must get on a plane and taste Spanish food right now! \_\_\_\_\_ Spain is known for its mouth-watering paella, a rice dish with seafood, or another type of meat, cooked in olive oil and saffron. \_\_\_\_\_ visit a local panadería (bakery) to taste a variety of delicious breads, flaky buttery pastries, and rich Spanish hot chocolate. \_\_\_\_\_ going to school in Spain allowed me to learn about different styles of art. \_\_\_\_\_ there are beautifully crafted buildings by Antoni Gaudí, a famous artist. \_\_\_\_\_ Madrid, the country's capital, houses the Museo del Prado (Prado Museum), which displays the world's finest European art collection from the 12<sup>th</sup> century to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. What would you do if you lived in Spain?

### Revision: Opinion: Topic

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Rubric Score

Student \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Genre Chart



Uses informal letter format

Suggestion for improvement: \_\_\_\_\_



Engages the reader and states an opinion about the topic

Suggestion for improvement: \_\_\_\_\_



Gives reasons for your opinion

Suggestion for improvement: \_\_\_\_\_



Uses vivid verbs, naming nouns, adjectives, and sensory details

Suggestion for improvement: \_\_\_\_\_



Uses transitions and varies sentence beginnings

Suggestion for improvement: \_\_\_\_\_



Concludes with a question

Suggestion for improvement: \_\_\_\_\_

**Editing Checklist**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Student      Teacher**

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|-------|-------|---|
| _____ | _____ | 1. Paper includes name, date, and title                             |
| _____ | _____ | 2. Correct punctuation at the end of each sentence    •    ?    !   |
| _____ | _____ | 3. Correct capitalization (beginning of sentences and proper nouns) |
| _____ | _____ | 4. Each paragraph is indented                                       |
| _____ | _____ | 5. Correct spelling, including “No Excuse” words                    |
| _____ | _____ | 6. _____<br><i>(Grammar focus for the class)</i>                    |
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**Editing Checklist**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Student      Teacher**

- |       |       |   |
|-------|-------|---|
| _____ | _____ | 1. Paper includes name, date, and title                             |
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| _____ | _____ | 3. Correct capitalization (beginning of sentences and proper nouns) |
| _____ | _____ | 4. Each paragraph is indented                                       |
| _____ | _____ | 5. Correct spelling, including “No Excuse” words                    |
| _____ | _____ | 6. _____<br><i>(Grammar focus for the class)</i>                    |



## *Opinion: Topic Assessment*

### **Opinion: Topic Genre Chart**

- Uses informal letter format
- Engages the reader and states an opinion about the topic
- Gives reasons for your opinion
- Uses vivid verbs, naming nouns, adjectives, and sensory details
- Uses transitions and varies sentence beginnings
- Concludes with a question

- **Write a letter stating an opinion**
- **Use all elements from the genre chart**

Your family is going to have a family movie night next Friday. Your parents ask you to write them a letter telling them which movie you think everyone should watch. You should think about what your family members like to watch and why your movie is a good choice for everyone.