First and Second Grade Quarterly Benchmark Continuum – Opinion

First Grade Second Grade

	First Quarter	Second Quarter	Third Quarter	Fourth Quarter		First Quarter	Second Quarter	Third Quarter	Fourth Quarter
Process (with guidance and support)	Uses an organized plan to include Introduction (topic and opinion) and Body (fact or reason) Plans with some opinion words and sketches Identifies a topic and audience/specific reader for piece Proofreads for "Yellow Card" words, capitals and ending marks Adds on to piece Lines out mistakes Carries writing over two days Teacher may publish piece	Uses an organized plan to include Introduction (topic and opinion), Body (fact or reason), Conclusion (closure) Plans with some opinion words and sketches Identifies a topic and audience/specific reader for piece Proofreads for "Green Card" words, environmental print, capitals and ending marks Adds on to piece Lines out mistakes Carries writing over two days Student begins to publish selected pieces	Uses an organized plan to include I/B/C Plans with some opinion words and/or phrases and sketches Identifies a topic and audience/specific reader for piece Proofreads for "Green Card" words, environmental print, capitals and ending marks Adds on or takes away from piece individually or collaboratively Uses a variety of sources Carries writing over two or more days Student begins to publish selected pieces	Uses an organized plan to include I/B/C Uses opinion words and phrases in plan (may still use some sketches) Identifies a topic and/or purpose for writing Identifies an audience/specific reader for piece Evidence of proofreading for spelling, grammar and punctuation Adds on or takes away from piece individually or collaboratively Uses a variety of sources Carries writing over two or more days Student begins to publish selected pieces	Process (with guidance and support)	Uses an organized plan to include Introduction (topic and opinion), Body (facts and reasons), Conclusion (closure) Uses opinion words and phrases in plan (may still use some sketches) Identifies a topic and specific reader/ audience for piece Adds on or deletes from piece individually or collaboratively Evidence of proofreading for spelling, punctuation, and grammar Uses a variety of sources Carries writing over two or more days Student publishes selected pieces in a variety of ways	Uses several planning strategies (list, web, Venn) Identifies a topic, purpose and specific reader/audience for piece Adds, substitutes, or deletes from piece individually or collaboratively Evidence of proofreading for spelling, punctuation, and grammar Uses a variety of sources Carries writing over two or more days Student publishes selected pieces in a variety of ways	Uses several planning strategies (list, web, Venn) Identifies a topic, purpose and specific reader/audience for piece Adds, substitutes, or deletes from piece individually or collaboratively Evidence of proofreading for spelling, punctuation, grammar and usage Uses a variety of sources Carries writing over two or more days Student publishes selected pieces in a variety of ways	Uses several planning strategies (list, web, Venn) Identifies a topic, purpose and specific reader/audience for piece Adds, substitutes, or deletes from piece individually or collaboratively Expands and rearranges sentence structures Evidence of proofreading for spelling, punctuation, grammar and usage Uses a variety of sources Carries writing over two or more days Student publishes selected pieces in a variety of ways
Surface Features/ Conventions	2 – 3 sentences in length Balance of spelling approximations (beg/mid/end sounds), "Green Card" words and environmental print Consistent lower case usage Consistent spacing Uses periods Capitalizes beginning of sentences and pronoun "I"	3 – 4 sentences in length Balance of spelling approximations (beg/mid/end sounds), "Green Card" words and environmental print Uses periods Capitalizes beginning of sentences, pronoun "I" and proper nouns	4 – 5 sentences in length Uses knowledge of more complex letter/sound relationships Contains many correctly spelled "Green Card" words and environmental print words Uses a variety of ending punctuation Capitalizes beginning of sentences, pronoun "I" and proper nouns	5 – 6 sentences in length Uses knowledge of more complex letter/sound relationships Contains correctly spelled "Green Card" words and environmental print Uses a variety of ending punctuation Capitalizes beginning of sentences, pronoun " " and proper nouns	Surface Features/ Conventions	6 – 7 sentences in length Uses knowledge of more complex letter/sound relationships Contains correctly spelled "Green Card" words and environmental print Uses a variety of ending punctuation Capitalizes beginning of sentences, pronoun " " and proper nouns	Begins to format ideas into paragraph form (indenting) Spells unknown words using knowledge of word structures Uses a variety of ending punctuation	Indents paragraph about one topic with supporting details Spells unknown words using knowledge of word structures Uses a variety of punctuation including apostrophes and commas	Indents paragraph about one topic with supporting details Spells unknown words using knowledge of word structures Uses a variety of punctuation including apostrophes, commas and quotation marks

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First Grade Second Grade

	First Quarter	Second Quarter	Third Quarter	Fourth Quarter		First Quarter	Second Quarter	Third Quarter	Fourth Quarter
Content – Opinion	Writing is sequential and matched to plan Writes an opinion Includes a supporting reason Contains some descriptive vocabulary		Writing is sequential and matched to plan Writes an opinion in response to a topic or text Supporting reason(s) is/are relevant to the opinion Contains descriptive vocabulary that reflects the opinion Uses linking words Provides a sense of closure	Writing is sequential and matched to plan Writes an opinion in response to a topic or text Supporting reason(s) is/are relevant to the opinion Contains descriptive vocabulary that reflects the opinion Uses linking words Provides a sense of closure	Content – Opinion	Writing is sequential and matched to plan Writes an opinion with supporting reasons in response to a topic or text Contains introductory statements Reasons are relevant to the opinion Contains descriptive vocabulary that reflects the opinion Uses linking words (e.g. and, also, another, because) Provides a sense of closure		Writing is logically sequenced within intro, body, conclusion Writes an opinion with supporting reasons in response to a topic, text or source Introductory statements engage the reader Reasons are relevant to the opinion Contains descriptive vocabulary that is specific to the opinion Uses varied sentence structures Uses linking words Provides a concluding statement	Writing is logically sequenced within intro, body, conclusion Writes an opinion with supporting reasons in response to a topic, text or source Introductory statements engage the reader Reasons are relevant to the opinion Contains descriptive vocabulary that is specific to the opinion Uses varied sentence structures Writes in third person if citing sources Uses linking words Provides a concluding statement from a menu of closing techniques (reinforce rather than repeat, question, quote)