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| **Color Code to identify Standard in writing piece:** | **1**  **Deficient**  **(Below Grade Level**) | **2**  **Developing**  **(Working Toward Grade Level)** | **3**  **Proficient**  **(At Grade Level)** | **4**  **Mastery**  **(Above Grade Level)** |
| Green | Does not introduce the topic | Introduces  the  topic | Introduces the topic with a convincing expectation of the opinion | Introduces the topic and creates an **organizational structure** |
| Red | Does not state an opinion **or** supply reasons to support the opinion | States an unclear opinion and supplies reasons that may not all support the opinion | States a clear opinion and supplies reasons that support the opinion | States the opinion and supplies **insightful** reasons that support the opinion |
| Yellow | Uses no linking words | Uses at least **one linking word,** but it may be incorrect or ineffective | Uses **linking** **words** to connect opinion to reasons | Uses **linking words and phrases** to connect opinion to reasons |
| Blue | Provides no conclusion | Provides unclear concluding statement | A concluding statement that reminds the reader of the opinion | Provides a **skillful** concluding statement or sections |