**Column Writing Rubric**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Exemplary | Proficient | Below standard | Did not demonstrate | Total points |
| Focused Claim | The column effectively develops a position and shows significant depth of thought. It has a clearly focused topic, opinion and reasons for the opinion. It states the claim early in the column. | The column adequately develops a position and has a main idea with a focused topic, opinion and reasons for the opinion. It states the claim early in the column. | The column has a claim with a topic, opinion and reasons, but the claim lacks a focus and/or depth of thought. It may fail to state the claim early in the column | The column does not have a main opinion or claim. |  |
| Counterarguments | The column effectively addresses some claims made by people with an opposing point of view. The column uses arguments to explain why those claims are not as important, true or useful. | The column adequately addresses some claims made by people with an opposing point of view. The column uses arguments to explain why those claims are not as important, true or useful. | The column addresses some claims made by the other side, but does not effectively explain why the column writer’s opinion is stronger. | The column does not address claims by the other side. |  |
| Evidence | The column uses at least three types of evidence to back up its reasons and all reasons are supported with evidence. | The column uses at least two types of evidence to back up its reasons and all reasons are supported with evidence. | The column uses only one type of evidence to support position or one reason may lack evidence. | The column does not use evidence to support reasons. |  |
| Tone | The column does an exceptional job of creating a tone that fits the topic and audience of the column. | The column does an adequate job of creating a tone that fits the topic and audience of the column. | The tone of the column generally fits the topic and audience, but in some cases the diction is not appropriate for the intended tone. | The column has an inappropriate or uneven tone with poor diction that may make it difficult to understand.  |  |
| Mechanics | The column is free of errors in spelling, grammar and punctuation. | The column has no more than one or two minor errors in spelling, grammar and punctuation. | The column has enough errors to distract the reader from the argument and reduce the writer’s credibility. | The column has enough errors to make the column hard to read and understand. |  |
| Total points |  |  |  |  | \_\_\_/ points |