Name:

Column Rubric

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Focused claim | The column 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 focus. |  | The column does not have a main opinion or claim. |
| Counterarguments | The column addresses some claims made by people with an opposing opinion. The column uses arguments to explain why those claims are not as important, true of useful. |  | The column addresses some claims made by the other side, but does not effectively explain why the writer’s opinion is stronger. |  | The column does not address claims by the other side. |
| Evidence | The column uses at least two types of evidence to back up its reasons and all reasons are backed with evidence. |  | The column uses only one type of evidence to back reasons, or one reason may lack evidence. |  | The column does not use evidence to support reasons. |
| Tone | The column creates a tone that fits the the topic and audience of the column. |  | The tone of the column generally fits, but in some cases the word choice does not fit the tone. |  | The column has an inappropriate on uneven tone that makes it hard to understand. |
| Mechanics | The column is free of errors in spelling, grammar and punctuation. |  | The paper has enough errors to distract the reader and reduce the writer’s credibility. |  | The column has enough errors to make the paper hard to read and understand. |