Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Opinion Writing Checklist

	Grade 6	NOT YET	STARTING TO	YES!
	Structure			
Overall	I not only staked a position that could be supported by a variety of trustworthy sources, but also built my argument and led to a conclusion in each part of my text.	☐	☐	☐
Lead	I wrote an introduction that helped readers to understand and care about the topic or text. I thought backwards between the piece and the introduction to make sure that the introduction fit with the whole.	☐	☐	☐
	I not only clearly stated my claim, but also named the reasons I would develop later. I also told my readers how my text would unfold.	☐	☐	☐
Transitions	I used transitional phrases to help readers understand how the different parts of my piece fit together to support my argument.	☐	☐	☐
Ending	I wrote a conclusion in which I restated the main points of my essay, perhaps offering a lingering thought or new insight for readers to consider. My ending added to and strengthened the overall argument.	☐	☐	☐
Organization	I arranged paragraphs, reasons, and evidence purposefully, leading readers from one claim or reason to another. I wrote more than one paragraph to develop a claim or reason.	☐	☐	☐
	Development			
Elaboration	I included and arranged a variety of evidence to support my reasons.	☐	☐	☐
	I used trusted sources and information from authorities on the topic.	☐	☐	☐
	I explained how my evidence strengthened my argument. I explained exactly which evidence supported which point.	☐	☐	☐
	I acknowledged different sides to the argument.	☐	☐	☐
Craft	I chose words deliberately to be clear and to have an effect on my readers.	☐	☐	☐
	I reached for precise phrases, metaphors, analogies, or images that would help to convey my ideas and strengthen my argument.	☐	☐	☐
	I chose *how* to present evidence and explained why and how the evidence supported my claim.	☐	☐	☐
	I used shifts in my tone to help my readers follow my argument; I made my piece sound serious.	☐	☐	☐
	Language Conventions			
Spelling	I used resources to be sure the words in my writing were spelled correctly, including returning to sources to check spelling.	☐	☐	☐
Punctuation	I used punctuation such as dashes, colons, parentheses, and semicolons to help me include or connect extra information in some of my sentences.	☐	☐	☐